

Hafa Adai!

AK donates \$1K to Saipan Humane Society. **PAGE 2**
Marianas arrivals up 140% in April. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 93

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Torres' trial date vacated anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The June 5 trial date of former governor Ralph DLG Torres in his pending criminal case at the Superior Court has been vacated again. Instead, a new trial date will be arrived at on June 5.

See **TORRES** on Page 4



DeLeon Guerrero questions whether CNMI got reimbursed \$20.8M for COVID response

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) is questioning

whether the CNMI government got reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the \$20.8 million the Torres administration paid for its COVID-19 response.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry as to why there



DeLeon Guerrero

is a need to investigate the \$93-million FEMA Community Disaster Loan funds, DeLeon Guerrero said Monday that a prior report states that \$6.8 million worth of expenses was transferred to the FEMA

CDL. A few months later, she

See **\$20.8M** on Page 4



'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
142

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign the proclamation to designate the week of May 7-13, 2023, as CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Joining Palacios and Apatang at the ceremony were Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres, Department of Corrections personnel, local dignitaries, and members of the community. Torres was also formally pinned as the Department of Corrections commissioner at the same ceremony.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Contraband found during random DOC shakedown

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Torres

Random inspections conducted by the Department of Corrections at the CNMI's sole correctional facility has led to the discovery of contrabands like cellphones and crystal methamphetamine.

DOC Commissioner An-

See **CONTRABAND** on Page 4

'Only one deciding on public funds' spending is a mistake'

» **House OKs bill to create investigative division within OAG with subpoena powers**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Witness testimonies during public hearings by the previous 22nd Legislature made it clear that leaving decisions of spending public funds to just one

See **MISTAKE** on Page 4



Flores

INSIDE



BUSINESS

HafaAdai Rent A Car offers a slew of promotions aimed at the local and tourist markets alike.

PAGE 11



NATION

A jury found Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll, awarding her \$5 million.

PAGE 12



ENVIRONMENT

Drought-stricken Spain says last month was the hottest and driest April since records began in 1961.

PAGE 14



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

AK donates \$1K to Saipan Humane Society



From left to right, Asun Demapan, Jenealyn Umbay, Kim Calage, Liza Taylor, Saipan Humane Society director Ruby Ma, SHS founding member Lauren Cabrera, Atkins Kroll Saipan sales manager Kevin Barnes, Kevin Ada, and Joaquin Blanco.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IMMEDIATE HIRING

1 (ONE) TRAVEL CLERK

HOURLY RATE: \$12.00 – 14.85

WORK 4 - 6 HOURS,

FLEXIBLE FROM 8:30AM – 4:30PM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

PLEASE CALL/TEXT @
(670) 287-3903/483-1618
CONDITONS MAY CHANGE

Atkins Kroll Saipan recently donated \$1,000 to the Saipan Humane Society, which will go a long way in helping their mission of providing a better life for animals by increasing access to veterinary care and spay/neuter surgeries. In addition, Atkins Kroll will also be providing rental cars to volunteer veterinarians who visit Saipan to help this cause.

The Saipan Humane Society is a newly founded non-profit organization serving the animals on Saipan, providing veterinarian care for domestic pets and animals that have been abandoned, abused, or neglected. The organization is partnered with the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter and Dog Control Program to provide care to shelter animals, with the ultimate goal of finding them forever homes.

Atkins Kroll Saipan's donation to the Saipan Humane Society is a testament to the company's commitment to giving back to the community. By supporting the NGO's efforts, the company is not

PET OF THE WEEK

Toby

Toby is a 6-month-old German Shepherd mix puppy and is a bundle of energy and love waiting for his forever home. He is a stunning black and tan-colored pup with piercing brown eyes that will melt your heart.

He has a playful and curious nature, and he loves to explore his surroundings. Despite his youthful energy, Toby is also very affectionate and loves nothing more than cuddling up with his humans. He is very gentle and patient, making him an excellent family pet, and he gets along well with other dogs and cats too. He is also up to date with deworming and Bravecto.

He is likely to grow into a medium-sized dog and will require some exercise and training to keep him healthy and happy.

Toby's available for adoption at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido. Hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS).

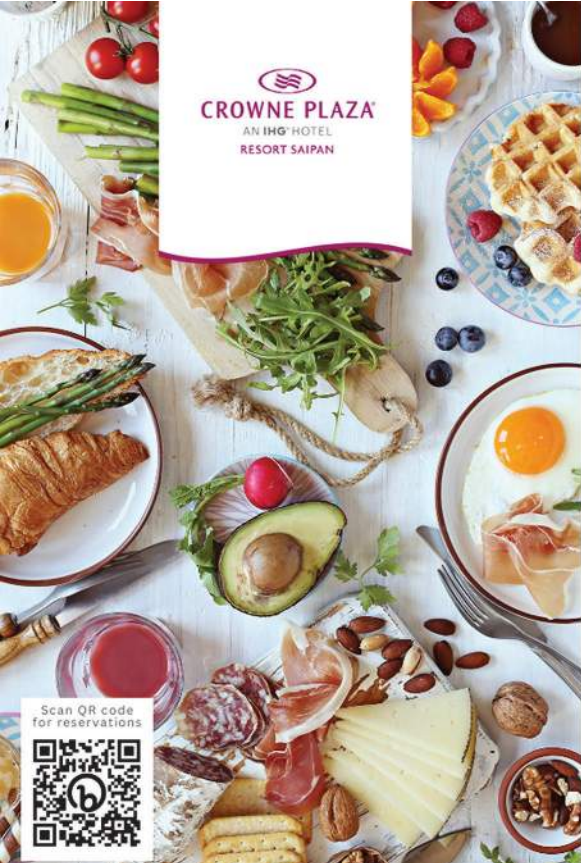
For inquiries about veterinary services reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or WhatsApp +1 (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, co-founder of the Boonie Flight Project of Guam, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

only helping to improve the lives of animals on the island but also contributing to the overall wellbeing of the Saipan community.

The donation will go a long way in providing the necessary resources for the NGO to continue its work. This donation will be used specifically to ensure the newly started clinic will have the supplies necessary to provide medical care to Saipan's animals, while also ensuring the surgeries remain at an affordable cost to the community.

The Saipan Humane Society has expressed its sincere gratitude to Atkins Kroll Saipan for its generous donation. The company's donation is an excellent demonstration of how businesses can contribute to the betterment of their community and island. (SHS)



A MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Feast on a delicious Mother's day brunch buffet spread including seafood on ice, whole roast lechon, smoked roast turkey, slow cooked certified angus beef prime rib, steamed blue parrot fish, live pasta station and more.... all rounded off with a mouthwatering selection of hot and cold desserts.

Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday 14th May 11am-2pm
Adults: \$65 / Child: \$25 (Ages 4-11)
Inclusive of selected beer, red wine, white wine, rose, sparkling, house iced tea, tea and brewed coffee

*15% local resident discount applies

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan
Reservations call 670 234 6414 | saipan.crowneplaza.com

Marianas arrivals up 140% in April

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 140% to 13,439 visitors in April 2023, compared to 5,593 visitors received in April 2022. Year-to-date arrivals this fiscal year have already exceeded the total number of visitors received last fiscal year (23,815 visitors) as the destination continues to make incremental gains in arrivals.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea reached 11,189 compared to 4,251 in April last year. April marks the second highest month of arrivals this fiscal year. Low-cost carrier Jeju Air increased operation from daily to double daily flights beginning on April 12, while T'Way increased from four times a week to daily flights on April 26. Also, full-service carrier Asiana Airlines resumed four flights a week beginning on April 27, expected to become daily in July through August 2023. Overall, by the end of fiscal year 2023 the number of available air seats from Korea is projected to be restored to 80% of the number available before the pandemic.

The Marianas received 479 visitors from Japan in April 2023 compared to 49 visitors in April 2022. In its marketing efforts, the MVA continues to face the obstacles of a strong U.S. dollar and a Japan national travel discount program that offers up to 20% discount to encourage domestic—rather than outbound—travel. On a positive note, on May 8 Japan downgraded the legal status of

the coronavirus to a level on par with the seasonal flu, paving the way for full normalization of social and economic activities. Also, a vaccination certificate or

pre-departure test is no longer required for entry to Japan as of April 29, making it easier for Japanese to travel abroad, especially with the large percentage

of unvaccinated children.

The MVA has extended its “Marianacation” promotion through August. Bookings for May and June are increasing.

Overall, visitor arrivals to the Marianas are 59% lower year-to-date compared to fiscal year 2019 before the pandemic. China, which rivalled South Korea

as a top source market of the Marianas prior to the pandemic, marked only 164 visitors, most arriving via Korea. In April the

See MARIANAS on Page 4

YES!

TRIPLE J SAYS

**EASY FINANCING? YES!
EASY TRADE-IN? YES!
FAST & FRIENDLY? YES!**

QUALITY USED CARS

<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2016 TOYOTA PRIUS S <small>STK: 22M257A</small> SALE PRICE \$13,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$105 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>			<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2016 TOYOTA COROLLA <small>STK: 18P345B</small> SALE PRICE \$9,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$75 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>			<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE <small>STK: 22H313A</small> SALE PRICE \$12,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$97 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE SE <small>STK: 23HZ005</small> SALE PRICE \$9,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$168 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2018 NISSAN ROGUE <small>STK: 18P393</small> SALE PRICE \$17,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$141 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2019 MAZDA CX-9 <small>STK: 23HZ002</small> SALE PRICE \$18,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>				
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 MAZDA3 <small>STK: 22M028E</small> SALE PRICE \$12,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$97 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2016 BUICK VERANO <small>STK: 17P505</small> SALE PRICE \$17,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$168 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2018 TOYOTA COROLLA iM <small>STK: 18P481</small> SALE PRICE \$19,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>				
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2014 FORD F-150 <small>STK: 23C007</small> SALE PRICE \$13,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$135 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2015 HYUNDAI GENESIS G80 <small>AWD - STK: 22M075A</small> SALE PRICE \$17,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 TOYOTA RAV4 <small>STK: 21D106A</small> SALE PRICE \$19,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>				
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA <small>STK: 17P370</small> SALE PRICE \$16,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$127 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2016 HONDA CIVIC <small>STK: 21H068A</small> SALE PRICE \$18,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$141 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER <small>STK: 22H219A</small> SALE PRICE \$19,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>				
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 MAZDA6 <small>STK: 17P341</small> SALE PRICE \$16,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$127 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2017 KIA SPORTAGE <small>STK: 17P422</small> SALE PRICE \$18,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$141 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>		<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON <small>STK: 22H161A</small> SALE PRICE \$19,995 </div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px auto;"> \$150 <small>PER PAYCHECK</small> </div>				

Water service interruption

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Saturday, May 13, 2023, for the Capital Hill Tank Service Area, from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

■ Area(s) affected: Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, I-Denni, and portions of Papago;

■ Purpose: The scheduled water outage is necessary for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators to repair a mainline leak on Marshall Loop on Capital Hill;

■ Road (s) affected: CUC operators will be working on the shoulder of the eastbound lane. For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Customers First



TRIPLE J MOTORS

MON-FRI: 8AM TO 6PM • SAT: 8AM TO 5PM
BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU

*On Approved Credit (OAC). Some Conditions Apply. Doc Fees and Registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details.

TEL: (670)234-7133/234-3051
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM



Camacho wants \$200K transferred to Gualo Rai road project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Ramon Jose Blas Camacho is recalling the fund certification under the Municipality of

Saipan's account in the amount of \$200,000, but he would like to transfer the amount to the Earhart Drive

Improvement Project in Gualo Rai.

In a letter to Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita Monday, Camacho said the invitation to bid for the Flores Rosa St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project was announced before his term as mayor and he has been informed that this project was funded during the 22nd Legislature in the amounts of \$240,000 under Saipan Local Law 22-10 and \$280,000 under Saipan Local Law 22-15.

Camacho said the Department of Public Works awarded the project to JAG Corp. (CNMI) LLC in the amount of \$344,320.

In December 2022, he said, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed House Local Bill 22-43, Substitute 1, that appropriates unobligated funds under Saipan Local Law 22-10 in the amount of \$430,000 from the casino license fee collected from the casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, stated that the only main difference in the substitute bill is they're removing \$150,000 from the Flores Rosa St. project funding, reducing the amount to \$280,000.

\$50K bail set for man who allegedly threatened woman with knife

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on a man accused of sexually assaulting a woman and threatening her at knifepoint.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed last Monday a \$50,000 cash bail on Thomas T. Matsunaga, 57, who is facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and domestic violence.

Matsunaga was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after his bail hearing and was ordered

to return to court for a preliminary hearing on May 17 at 10am. Meanwhile, the judge set Matsunaga's arraignment for May 22 at 9am.

During the hearing, Matsunaga was represented by Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig while assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

According to court documents, the victim told police that Matsunaga is a former boyfriend with whom she no longer has a relationship but shares a child with.

In the early hours of May 2, she said she saw Matsunaga outside her house and asked him what he was doing there, to which he replied nothing.

After this, the victim said she went on with her day but later, Matsunaga pushed opened the door to her room and forcefully "massaged and caressed" her.

The victim said she tried to fight back but she noticed that Matsunaga was also holding a kitchen knife. She said she got scared and stopped fighting back.

The victim further told police that Matsunaga cut her shorts while she was lying on her stomach.

Sometime later, the victim said Matsunaga walked up to her, splashed her with water from a cup, and punched her in the back of her head.

CONTRABAND

From Page 1

thony Torres said yesterday that he has ordered "spontaneous shakedowns" at the prison for the last month or so in an effort to investigate claims about illegal contraband within DOC.

As a result of these shakedowns, Torres said officers were able to retrieve from inmates seven cellphones, methamphetamine, and other contraband. A shakedown implies a thorough inspection of the whole facility,

which is scoured from top to bottom.

"In the last four weeks, from around the beginning of April, we were able to confiscate cellphones. From April 18 to today, we've confiscated about seven cellphones. Those cellphones are now with our federal partners. The investigation is still ongoing. We started with two on April 18, then we got another one on April 20, another one on April 25, 27, 28, and May 2," he said.

"During those times, we initiated emergency shakedowns. I even came in, I had dogs brought in, and we did a full shakedown, and we were able

to retrieve contrabands like cellphones, some methamphetamine, and others," Torres added.

Torres said this matter is still under investigation, including how the contraband items were brought in, and he will update the community once the investigation ends.

"We're doing our best. I'm doing my best and I will say that my staff is working hard and diligently in moving forward with this investigation," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

\$20.8M

From Page 1

said, numerous expenses were funded by these FEMA CDL funds.

DeLeon Guerrero has created a special committee and appointed Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as chairman to investigate the Torres administration's expenditures of the CDL funds.

The Senate president noted that the

CNMI received a total of \$88.7 million of FEMA CDL funds in the third quarter of fiscal year 2021. DeLeon Guerrero said these funds allowed the reimbursement of COVID-19 costs taken from the CNMI's general fund.

She said significant amounts of \$16.4 million for the CNMI Group Health Life Insurance Plan due to GHLI vendors was paid for, and \$20.8 million in CDL money was used to pay for the COVID-19 re-

sponse. There was also a \$5.5 million in paid expenses for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"It is important to validate and confirm these payments to ensure that government payables/vendors truly received their payments," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said this review requires tremendous analytics to understand the movement of monies as they are classified/interchanged as receivables, payables, and cash on and, and/or assets/liabilities.

TORRES

From Page 1

Following a pre-trial conference for the case last May 8, Superior Court Judge pro tempore Arthur Barcinas issued an order vacating the June 5 trial date, making this the latest instance when Torres' trial date has been pushed back.

Torres' trial was initially set for August 2022, but it was later pushed to sometime after November due to the gubernatorial election. The trial was later rescheduled to Feb. 13, 2023, but was again rescheduled to June 5.

At the hearing last May 8, the parties involved in the case agreed that there are pending issues that need to be resolved prior to trial, including the Commonwealth government's objection to the appointment of Barcinas as judge pro tem and Torres' objection to special prosecutor James Kingman's ability to serve as counsel moving forward.

The prosecution opposes Barcinas'

appointment because he also currently serves as justice pro tem in the Supreme Court appellate case *Ralph DLG Torres v. House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations* in which the former governor is the plaintiff-appellant.

The parties explained that the June 5 trial date was premature, considering the numerous pending issues.

"Upon consideration of the parties' requests and this court's own calendar and schedule, the jury trial currently scheduled for June 5 is hereby vacated. The previous trial date of June 5 will instead be used as a scheduling conference for all pending matters and the time at which this court will set a new trial date," said Barcinas.

In vacating the trial date, Barcinas also released all jurors and witnesses from their obligation to appear at the June 5 trial. "...All potential jurors and witnesses are released from their obligations to appear during the previously scheduled June 5, trial in this matter," he said.

At the May 8 hearing, Kingman also orally made a motion to file a motion under seal concerning Torres' counsels. The court allowed Kingman to file a motion under seal regarding his concerns about the case and gave Torres' counsels leave to file any objection regarding the unsealing of the Commonwealth's motion.

Torres was represented at the May 8 pre-trial conference by Viola Alepuyo, Anthony H. Aguon, Matthew Holley, and Victorino DLG Torres. The Commonwealth was represented by assistant attorney general Steven Kessell and Kingman.

Also present was Office of the Attorney General Chief Solicitor J. Robert Glass Jr., who was acting as a pro hac attorney for Kingman, and Sean Frink, who represented two of the witnesses subpoenaed for trial.

Barcinas presided over the hearing virtually from Guam.

The OAG filed criminal charges against Torres last April 2022 for alleged theft and misconduct in public office.

MISTAKE

From Page 1

person or even a single committee was a mistake, according to Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) yesterday.

"Our laws need to clarify the oversight of public spending and empower investigative authorities in the collection of information to hold public officials accountable for misuse of their office," said Flores, who chairs the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Flores cited the alleged lack of transparency in government, especially in the use of public money during the Torres administration, shortly before the House passed her legislation to create an investigative division within the Office of the Attorney General, codify investigative subpoena power, and improve the investigation of cases involving public corruption.

Flores introduced House Bill 23-22 bill last March 9; it was then referred to the House JGO Committee, which later recommended the legislation's passage. All 16 representatives who were present in yesterday's special session voted to pass the legislation. Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) was present at the session, but was not in the chamber during the voting.

While the Legislature can continue to hold hearings and bring to light problems related to public spending, Flores said the time has also come to pass laws that prevent future corruption and hold accountable public officials who misuse their offices. She said this is why she filed a series of bills focused on adding muscle to agencies that investigate and prosecute crimes.

Flores pointed out that when the previous 22nd Legislature investigated how the money from the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST grant program, was spent, the Legislature used subpoenas to collect document that explained how public officials distributed the money. The Legislature also used subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify.

"This [proposed] legislation makes sure that the attorney general has the same tools when investigating crimes and bringing cases to justice," she said.

Flores said H.B. 23-22 is the next step that this Legislature must take if they are to build on the hearings of the last Legislature.

According to the JGO committee's report, establishing an investigative division within the OAG is important in order to assist other investigative agencies' findings and build a stronger case involving public corruption during trials. In the event of a complaint against a public official, the investigators of the OAG will need documents, information, and objects for investigative purposes. As the main prosecuting attorney of the CNMI, it would be imperative of the OAG to exert its own investigative efforts for better prosecution at trial.

The committee report noted that the attorneys general in Texas, Maryland, Hawaii, and others have their own version of an investigative division.

The committee said it is of great importance to create a similar setup and allow for the CNMI OAG to gather information and witnesses needed for better prosecution against individuals who betray peoples' trust.

The committee amended the proposed legislation to incorporate the comments made by the OAG, Officer of the Public Auditor, and the Office of the Public Defender. That included removing language that required annual training for AG investigators by OPA, and extend subpoenas to consumer protection investigations.

Other amendment is to respect the witness' right to an attorney, provided that the attorney remains outside while witness is being questioned and the witness can consult such attorney at any time requested by the witnesses.

The enactment of the bill will result in additional cost to the government since it aims to create a new division within the OAG. The division will require additional staff, training, equipment, and other resources.

However, the committee said, the benefits of creating a new division will heavily outweigh the costs by increasing law enforcement efforts.

MARIANAS

From Page 3

Marianas also received 708 visitors from Guam, 545 visitors from the United States, and a combined 354 visitors from all other markets. (MVA)

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS  25% off	BICYCLES  25% off	COMFORTERS & BLANKETS  25% off	COSMETICS & NAIL CARE  25% off	ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  25% off
FASHION JEWELRIES  25% off	HAIR DRYERS, CURLERS & STRAIGHTNERS  25% off	HANDBAGS & WALLETS  25% off	LADIES DRESSES, TOPS & BOTTOMS  25% off	SHOES & SANDALS  25% off



JOETEN MOTHER'S DAY SALE

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 11 TO 14, 2023

US CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS THIN SLICE  \$5⁹⁹ /lb.	US CHOICE CHILL BEEF T-BONE STEAK  \$11⁹⁹ /lb.	US PORK BELLY FAMILY BAG 6 LBS  \$19⁹⁹	US LARGE SMOKED HAM 24-26 LBS  \$2⁴⁹ /lb.	SHRIMP HEADLESS SKIN-ON 31-35ct 1.5 LBS  \$7⁹⁹
YELLOW TAIL AUSTRALIAN WINE 750ml  \$12⁹⁹ ea.	GOSSIP'S AUSTRALIAN WINE 750ml  \$6⁹⁹ ea.	WING GANG AUSTRALIAN WINE 750ml  \$6⁹⁹ ea.	HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk  \$9⁹⁹	PURISS WATER 20/350ml  \$5 /cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

BETTY CAKE MX STRAWBRY 15.25z  \$1⁹⁹ ea.	COMSTOCK CHERRY PIE FILLING 21oz  \$4⁹⁹ ea.	EED VEGETABLE OIL 40z  \$4⁹⁹ ea.	U.S. CARROTS BABY 16z  \$1³⁹ /lb.	U.S. CABBAGE GREEN HEAD (S)  \$1¹⁹ /lb.	U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/IDAHO (S)  \$1¹⁹ /lb.	U.S. NZ ONION YELLOW  99¢ /lb.	CRISCO ALL VEGETABLE SHITING 16z CRISCO SHORTENING BUTTER 16oz  \$3⁹⁹ ea.
US CHOICE NY STEAK/LB  \$13⁶⁹ /lb.	BEEF CH BOTTOM ROUND STEAK  \$5¹⁹ /lb.	BEEF CH FLANK STEAK / LB  \$11⁹⁹ /lb.	PHILADELPHIA PLAIN CRM CHEESE 8z  \$4⁹⁹	KRAFT COOL WHIP DAIRY 16z  \$4⁷⁹	EED FROZEN STRAWBERRY SLICED 15z  \$2⁹⁹	CLIF BUILDER'S CHOCOLATE MINT PROTEIN BAR 2.4oz  \$1⁹⁹	BUDGET SAVER LEMON LIME MONSTER POPS 36z  \$3⁹⁹

Joeten Shopping Center

DISCLAIMER:

Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman



WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES



SPOTTED ABOUT TOWN
Rick Babauta's siblings, who are visiting Saipan for the first time from Florida, have their picture taken with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, third from right. Photo shows, from left, Natan, Rick, Celest, Annie, and Debbie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GRMC to announce its honoree of The DAISY Award

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City will announce the nurse recipient of The DAISY Award on Friday, May 12, 2023, 7:30am at the Dusit Thani Guam.

This marks the third year of GRMC’s participation in The DAISY Award to recognize a nurse who has made a uniquely significant impact on the lives of patients and their families.

The DAISY Award—which stands for **D**isease **A**ttacking the **I**mmune **S**ystem—was created by the family of the late Patrick Barnes, who at the age of 33, was diagnosed with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura, an auto-immune disease characterized by low levels of the blood cells that prevent bleeding. When Barnes passed, the family wanted to honor his memory by creating

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

Barnes’ wife, Tena, said: “We wanted to give patients, families, and co-workers an easy way to express their gratitude for nurses who provide extraordinary compassionate care, and we wanted the program to honor nurses all year long—not only during Nurses Week.”

The DAISY Award has

\$5.5M allotted to boost domestic water supplies for US territories

HONOLULU—The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is making \$5.5 million available to U.S. territories through President Joe Biden’s Investing in America agenda for projects that will provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to potable water.

Funding will be available for planning, design, or construction of water projects.

The U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible to receive funding, made available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

“The U.S. territories face unique challenges in supporting their communities with clean, reliable water supplies, including aging infrastructure and sea-level rise,” said Reclamation commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. “Investments from the Investing in America agenda will assist Reclamation in supporting the U.S. territories as they seek a reliable water supply for their communities and citizens.”

The announcement was made at the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop, which convened local, federal and territorial representatives to discuss how the Investing in America agenda is providing once-in-a-generation climate and infrastructure resources to the U.S. territories, including investments in ecosystem restoration and climate resilience.

Reclamation has long provided engineering services and technical assistance to the U.S. territories through an interagency agreement with the Office of Insular Affairs. Reclamation will now begin conversations with the U.S. territory stakeholders to determine the allocation of the funding to meet their water supply needs.

To learn more about Reclamation’s implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, visit: <https://www.usbr.gov/inflation-reduction-act/>. **(PR)**

Commerce urges businesses to complete economic census



Although the due date has passed for the 2022 CNMI Economic Census, businesses are still required by law to complete the questionnaire.

The Department of Commerce’s Central Statistics Division, in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census section, will be issuing past-due notices with instructions on how to respond electronically and how to get assistance. In addition, paper questionnaires will be mailed to small businesses to provide another reporting option.

The 2022 CNMI Economic Census began in late January 2023 with notifications sent to all businesses in the CNMI to complete the survey through a portal with a due date around mid-March.

The response is required by law under Title 13, U.S. Code. Responses are confidential. The Census Bureau is required by law to keep information private and secure. Federal law protects all businesses’ responses and ensures the data can only be used for statistical purposes.

Businesses that require additional time to respond can request an extension by logging onto the Respondent Portal (<https://portal.census.gov>), entering the authentication code sent to them by mail or email, and accessing their survey card.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LED STREET LIGHT LUMINAIRES AND MATERIALS FOR THE STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT, SAIPAN.

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires and materials to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (USDIOA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-021, Supply and Delivery of LED Streetlight Luminaires and Materials for the Streetlight Efficiency Project, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee T. Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org; Jonathan Camacho, CUC Power Division Junior Engineer via email jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org; and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

Bettina G. Terlaje
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION	COMPTROLLER, exempt
LOCATION AND DEPARTMENT	CEDA SAIPAN OFFICE
PER ANNUM	Minimum \$70,000.00
EMPLOYMENT TERM	Two (2) Year Contract, renewable
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT	HR 2023-01
OPENING DATE	05/10/2023
CLOSING DATE	05/26/2023 4:00 P.M.

Interested candidates can find the detailed job description and application form for the position on our website at <https://developcnmi.com/jva.html> or by scanning the QR code below.

Applications, along with a cover letter and CV, must be submitted to the CEDA Saipan office at 22390 Beach Road, Oleai, Unit 205, or by email to m.sablan@developcnmi.com and copied to c.kintol@developcnmi.com on or before the closing date of May 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please contact Christy Kintol by email or at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director



The Economic Census of Island Areas is the most comprehensive measure of the U.S. territory economy. It will provide industry statistics for the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota separately. It is the official five-year measure of U.S. territory businesses collected for years ending in “2” and “7.” The Economic Census of Island Areas data serves as the foundation for the gross domestic product. These statistics are also used by trade associations, economic development agencies, governments, and individual businesses for business decisions and policymaking.

For more information, visit the U.S. Census Bureau website at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/year/2022/2022-main.html>, or call the Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division at 670-664-3023 or 670-664-3045. **(Commerce)**

Canoe departs Palau for Guam, Saipan

A double-hulled voyaging canoe called *Alingano Maisu* departed from the NECO Marine Harbor in Malakal in Palau last April 30, 2023, under the direction of Micronesians Voyaging Society and in partnership with Palau Community College. The canoe will travel to Yap, Woleai, and Satawal. It will then sail to Guam and Saipan.

Upon returning, the final leg of *Alingano Maisu's* journey will make a stop at Guam and onward to Satawal and Yap before returning to Palau.

The canoe's crew members are Sesario Sewralur (captain

and master navigator), Miano Sowraenpiy, Allen Yalisman, Landon Moss Sewralur, Snyder Taisakan, Jada Marie S. Rabauliman, Beouch Ogumoro Ngirchongor, Gregoria Olopai, Latoya Ruth Laniyu Cantu, Mitchel Myron Olopai Sablan, Ervin Olopai, Leslie Gulibert, Kazuyo Hayashi, Rilang Roberto, and Benito Mario Jacob.

Alingano Maisu is a 56-foot doubled-hulled voyaging canoe that was built in Hawaii by the members of the Nā Kālai Wa'a O Hawai'i, a group of canoe builders and voyagers from the Pacific islands.

The canoe was built as a gift

of gratitude to master navigator Dr. Pius Mau Piailug who had revived the non-instrumental navigation techniques of Polynesia by sharing his knowledge of navigation during the 1976 voyage of Hōkūle'a from Hawaii to Tahiti. Piailug, who was from the island of Satawal in Yap, is the father of Sewralur, *Alingano Maisu's* captain and master navigator.

In 2008, PCC established a Non-Instrumental Navigation Program that aims to revive and preserve the practice of non-instrumental navigation that is traditional to the people of the Pacific islands. (PCC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alingano Maisu departs Palau on April 30, 2023, and will travel to Yap, Woleai, and Satawal. It will then sail to Guam and Saipan.

A Special

Mothers' Day

360°

to Remember

Offer available on Saturday and Sunday
May 13-14, 2023
Lunch and Dinner

Starters:

- *Oriental creamy chicken noodle soup
- *Toss green salad with bacon and Swiss cheese in thousand island dressing
- *Spicy orange chicken bites

Entrée

Marinated grilled chicken breast in chili soy glaze and
Oven baked mahi mahi piccata
Serve with pimiento fried rice and vegetables
\$59.00

or

Grilled Certified Angus Beef Ribeye steak with roasted
pepper sauce and Sautéed garlic butter shrimp
with twice baked potato and vegetables
\$69.00

Dessert

Fudge brownies butter scotch trifle

For reservations and inquiries please
call (670) 234-3600 or (670) 285-0360.

IN CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY

2023 ROGUE

NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

WITH

\$500

DOWN

STARTING AT

\$242*

PER PAYCHECK*

AND RECEIVE A

\$500

SHOPPING SPREE FOR MOM

SV/SL/PLATINUM/AWD
TRIMS AVAILABLE

FREE TINT & ZIEBART UNDERCOATING | ONE YEAR FREE SERVICE

Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com • Tel. (670) 234-5562

SHOWROOM HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • *Some conditions apply • While Supplies last.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

Like us on Facebook

*2023 Nissan Rogue S at \$32,995 + Doc Fees with \$500 down at 4.59% APR for 72 months at 26 payperiods, OAC. Deferred financing at \$37,803.60.

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 93Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Democracy dies when students don't know the basics of history and civics

The National Assessment of Educational Progress civics test scores for eighth graders for the first time have registered a decline while history scores continued their steep decline. The results for the nation's report card are abysmal and present a major warning sign for the future regarding the ability of young people to grasp the events that shaped America and how the nation's democratic institutions function. The lower that understanding, the higher the chances of young people being manipulated by social media and falling victim to political liars and scammers.

Girls performed worse than boys. Whites had steeper declines than blacks and Hispanics. Charter school students performed far worse than students in traditional public schools, while Catholic school students' performance was flat. Parental education levels appeared to influence their children's performance. The steepest regional decline for civics was here in the Midwest.

So what does it mean when only 22% of eighth graders scored at or above basic proficiency levels for civics? It means that more than three-quarters of students don't have the intellectual tools to understand the functions of government, legislatures and the judiciary—or why it's important. They might not understand the Constitution and how the Bill of Rights outlines their freedoms and the boundaries of those freedoms.

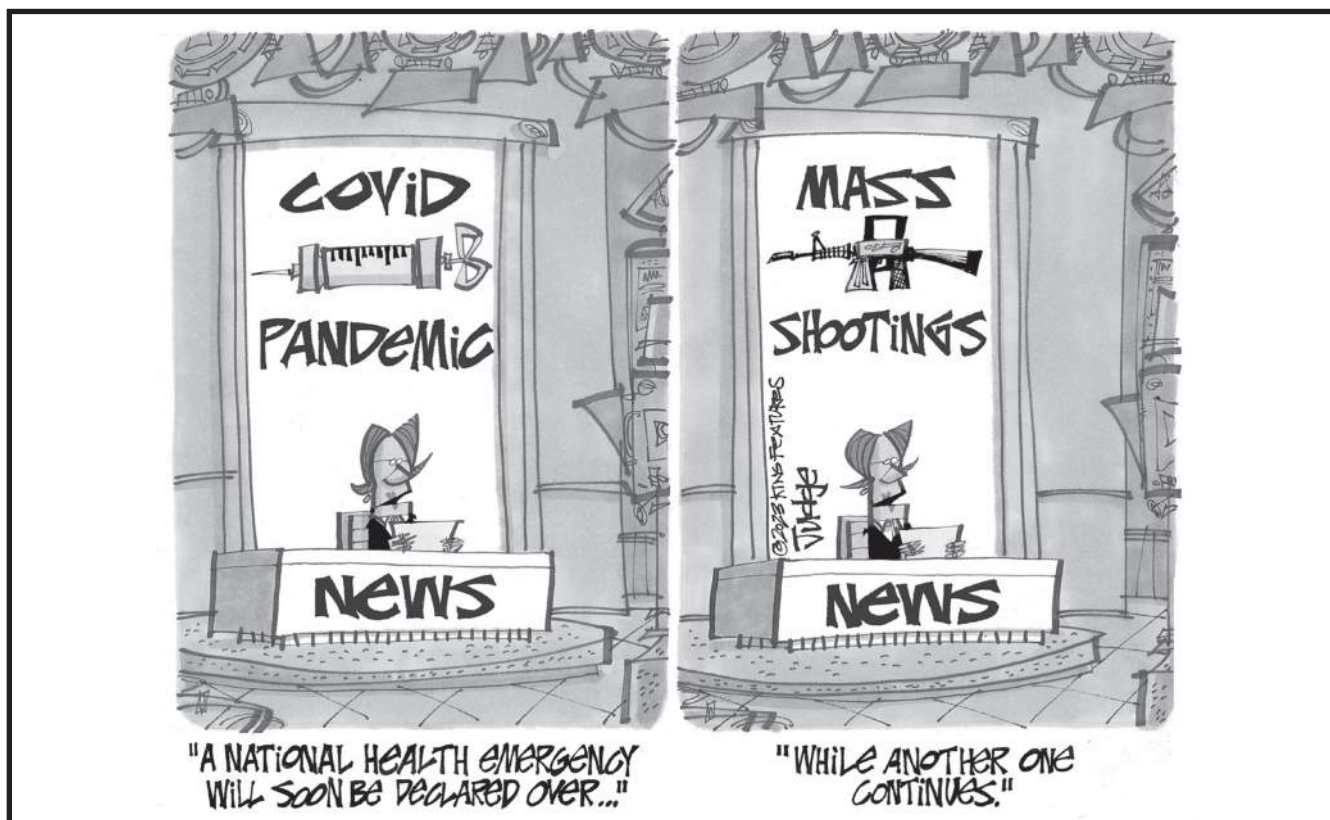
When ignorance of such basics prevails at the same time kids are more focused than ever on their smartphones and social media, their vulnerability to manipulation by nefarious individuals grows astronomically. Think Steve Bannon hawking lies about the 2020 presidential election being stolen, or Alex Jones claiming that a school mass shooting was a hoax, and grieving parents were just actors. The mass manipulation of today's adults is bad enough, so imagine the possibilities when the next, horrendously ill-prepared generation comes of voting age.

The steeper national performance decline was in U.S. history, where only 14% of students scored at or above proficient. With so many issues lately coming to bear on the public's historical understanding, the nation cannot afford to have a new generation immersed in nonsense presented as fact. Politicians and conservative networks are working overtime to convince parents that children should not be taught the full, unvarnished history of slavery and how it continues to impact the Black experience today. Students need to know the historical foundations of the First Amendment, and why the separation of church and state is essential. Or why it's necessary to defend and protect press freedoms.

Since today's students are reading less—and testing lower on reading abilities—the chances grow ever slimmer of them sitting down to read a newspaper or knowing how to distinguish between a credible news source and a bogus one.

Civics and history are the foundations of an informed and engaged public. And the signs are unmistakable that those foundations are crumbling.

©2023 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



In Sudan, many hands could make heavy war—or peace

The war unfolding in Sudan is an internal conflict in danger of going global. Finding a sustainable peace will require convincing many countries with a stake in Sudan's future that they are better off with a partner at peace than one at war.

The conflict is a power struggle between Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, who leads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, and Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, who heads the Sudanese army and is the country's de facto leader. Each leads a sizable armed force and, since Omar al-Bashir's ouster in 2019, the two have oscillated between consolidating military power and negotiating a civilian transition. This came to a head last month when they couldn't agree to terms for integrating their armies into a single national force.

Neither is eager to forgo the power they've accumulated, which enables them to exploit Sudan's wealth of resources—from gold deposits and croplands to mercenaries and port access on the Red Sea. A cease-fire that was supposed to begin Thursday did not appear to stop the fighting.

These strongmen secured their power not through public legitimacy or governance but through force fortified by the many countries that provide them wealth, support and legitimacy.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates both provide millions of dollars in direct budget support, payment for mercenaries to fight wars abroad and other unaccountable business dealings that benefit the military leaders directly.

Several neighboring countries have strong ties with one or both of Sudan's warring generals. Elements in Libya, which itself has no controlling authority, have thrown in with Hemedti, while Egypt is likely to support Burhan given long-standing close ties with the Sudanese army. Most, however, are cautious to keep cordial relations with both as insurance for manageable relations in case either one prevails.

All seven of Sudan's neighbors—which also include Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Chad—have a stake in Sudan's status. Each will suffer from continued conflict due to refugee flows and trade impediments. Most of them seem genuine in calling on both sides to end the violence. But the longer the conflict goes on, the more likely neighbors start choosing sides, raising the risk of sustained fighting in the long term.

The United States and the European Union have less directly at stake but are engaged in peace talks out of interest in broader regional stability. Their greatest leverage is humanitarian and economic assistance, though these two generals don't seem particularly concerned about the welfare of the country's people.

The West's role in helping negotiate a transition after Bashir's removal inadvertently helped lay the groundwork for today's conflict, since it was instrumental in pressing civilian activists to accept a joint military-civilian transitional government. This was done in the interest of expediency, but it ultimately helped legitimize the position of the generals at the helm.

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**
Chicago Tribune



Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

The doomed transitional arrangement was, in many ways, the inevitable outcome of unaccountable foreign interference that boosted the fortunes of these generals in the first place. Western influence might not have been able to prevent the military's dominance, but to pretend they would lead a democratic transition was an unnecessary mistake.

No discussion of foreign influence would be complete without addressing China and Russia. Though they aren't the most important players in Sudan, each could play a role, for good or ill.

Russia's Wagner Group is believed to have connections with both the UAE and Hemedti through gold trade, suggesting it could be a potential spoiler. China is Sudan's largest trading partner, so it has a greater stake in stability.

The question now is how to turn extensive outside interest into sufficient pressure for peace.

Partner countries and neighbors can help mitigate conflict, and often seek to do so, as violence and victims easily spread across borders. In our interconnected world, more actors also have a financial stake in more countries, which had enhanced expectations that globalization would bring greater peace.

But exploiting resources of conflict-prone countries often means capitalizing on chaos instead, so outside parties too often act as instigators, tag-teaming with one side or another to take a country's wealth and resources while citizens pay the price.

Recent history has shown that, when outside actors driven by greed help strongmen hoard power, it makes for longer, deadlier wars and record numbers of people fleeing violence. Sudan can only avoid this fate if interested countries see their interests met better by its peace than its war.

With no dominant influence, this conflict has no quick fixes. The best answer is the slow, painstaking effort of diplomacy, leveraging the influence states have not only on Sudan's actors but on each other. And while ending the fighting is the first order of business, that will be just the start.

Only greater investment in diplomacy over the long term, and patience to seek sustainable solutions, can help ensure that widespread foreign entanglement in places like Sudan fosters stability instead of conflict.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘Let’s give you—our teachers—a raise’

Editor’s Note: In celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona wrote the following in the Huff Post yesterday about his own experiences as an educator and of his hopes for the teaching profession. It is reprinted here in full:

Twenty-five years ago, I was a newly minted college graduate brimming with excitement for the teaching profession. So excited that I spent \$450 of my own savings on crayons, notebooks, and decorations for Room 160—my first classroom. To welcome my class of fourth graders, I designed a wall banner with a rocket ship that said, “let the journey begin.”

On that day, the journey began for me, too.

We educators live for those moments when our students feel a sense of belonging in our classrooms and start to believe in themselves. Those moments when a student discovers a love of writing, a knack for numbers, an ear for music, or an eye for art that they didn’t know they possessed. Those moments when students don’t just meet your highest expectations but surpass them.

Especially during National Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to thank you—America’s educators.

You build relationships with students and set a high bar for their growth. You believe in their potential, even when they don’t see it quite yet themselves. It’s not an exaggeration: you change lives.

As we celebrate you, know this: the Biden-Harris team and the Department of Education see you. We know appreciation can’t just be a box of donuts dropped off in your breakroom. You deserve action that shows America truly values you.

In this moment, you’re facing unprecedented challenges. A public education sector that lost 9% of its jobs amid the pandemic has left you with growing workloads and less time to provide students with individual attention that you know they need. Salaries are far below what most professionals with graduate degrees earn. Politicians who’ve never studied the science of learning are trying to tell you what you can teach and attempting to drive a wedge between you and families.

But this divisiveness does not reflect the thriving school communities I’ve seen across the country. And through it all, you’re focused on what matters most—your students.

Teaching is the profession that enables all other profes-

sions. And teachers deserve respect.

That’s why, as your Secretary of Education, I’m pushing for what I call a focus on “the ABCs of the teaching profession.” Agency. Better Working Conditions. Competitive Salary.

That’s what President Biden and I are fighting for.

Agency means making sure you’re part of conversations that impact the work you do. Thriving school communities incorporate the voices of teachers along with students, families, and school leaders. Agency means treating you as professionals with pathways to advance in your career, and earn more, while still doing what you love—teaching.

Better working conditions means giving you the support you need to do your job effectively, including time for planning and collaboration with your peers. And it means finally moving past “one-and-done” professional development and prioritizing job-embedded learning, coaching, and mentoring.

Competitive salary means recognizing that no one pursues a career in education to get rich, but no teacher should qualify for your state welfare program. In the last 25 years, wages for college graduates have gone up by 28 percent while weekly wages for teachers have gone up by a measly 2%. That’s an increase of \$29 per week for teachers, and a \$445 increase for other professionals with college degrees. It can feel sometimes like a teacher tax. You deserve better.

The Biden-Harris team understands this. We’ve been putting our appreciation for you into action.

That’s why the President has secured a \$1.9-billion increase in funding for schools serving low-income communities, which can help with teacher pay.

It’s also why the Department of Education is partnering with state and local education leaders to improve teacher salaries. And we’re seeing progress.

The Indianapolis Public Schools agreed to a combined 6% increase in teacher pay. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a bill that increased base salaries, on average, by 20% for New Mexico’s teachers. And Gov. Kay Ivey enacted a pay increase that boosts compensation for Alabama educators by at least 4%, with those with nine or more years of experience earning 5 to 21% more.

We need more leaders taking bold actions like these.

And at the federal level, we’ve worked to make it more affordable to be a teacher by helping educators get student loan

By MIGUEL CARDONA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Miguel Cardona is the U.S. Department of Education secretary.



forgiveness. The Biden-Harris team’s improvements to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program have resulted in \$42 billion in forgiveness for over 615,000 public servants—including educators. And our proposed income-driven repayment plan would cut monthly payments for undergraduate borrowers in half and create faster pathways to forgiveness.

We’ve also secured \$2.65 billion to grow and support a pipeline of educators that is diverse, talented, and effective.

We’re fighting for additional resources to train and hire teachers in hard-to-fill areas, including special education and multilingual education.

And we’re empowering teachers to focus on teaching by providing students with access to better mental health supports. In addition to all the vital work you do, you should not be expected to also serve as your schools’ counselors or psychologists; yet you understand that the wellbeing of your students directly impacts their learning.

I’m proud President Biden has secured unprecedented, bipartisan investments to build safe and healthy schools, including by training and hiring more school-based mental health professionals. As a result, the number of counselors in our schools is up 10% and the number of social workers has jumped 48% since prior to the pandemic.

As a first-year teacher, I was interviewed by a local reporter in my hometown. I told her “I was really blessed” to enter the teaching profession. I knew then what I know now: teaching is the best profession. My love for teaching is inseparable from my admiration and respect for the people drawn to this work.

So, let’s give you—our teachers—a raise. Let’s lift up your profession. And let’s show you the respect you deserve. Let that journey begin with renewed commitment today!

COVID policies failed our kids and schools. Can we learn from it, rebuild trust?

FORT WORTH, Texas—If you’re anything like me, you’ve done your best to blot out the COVID era from your memory.

It doesn’t seem productive to ruminate on the days spent in fear and uncertainty – fear that public officials insisted should consume us; “hunkering down” in our homes; our children’s smiles hidden from us behind masks that even Dr. Anthony Fauci now appears to concede were (as applied) of nominal benefit.

But the effects of our COVID response, which was in many cases destructive, still linger. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the realm of education.

In parts of the country, including Fort Worth, some students lost a year (or more) of full-time in-person school. In certain cases, that was by choice; some parents worried that schools would be super-spreaders – they weren’t – and voluntarily kept them home.

For other students, going to class in-person was simply not offered as an option.

Frequent “exposure” quarantines that needlessly kept healthy kids at home for weeks at a time only made things worse.

Learning loss abounded, in reading and math especially, and for Black and Latino children in particular. Those losses are still felt deeply in places like Fort Worth, where students in an already struggling district are still climbing out of an academic hole.

Children’s mental health also suffered; isolation and depression ballooned, the effects of which have yet to be fully realized.

None of this is fun to reflect on, but all of it was re-hashed last month during a congressional hearing which featured one of the key players behind prolonged school closures: Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Testifying about her organization’s role in a COVID-response oversight hearing, the union boss insisted that she and her minions were working to keep schools open from day one.

“We spent every day from February on trying to get schools open,” she said. “We know that remote education was not a substitute for opening schools.”

Indeed, there is little doubt that she and her cohorts knew the costs of prolonged virtual school, especially for vulnerable communities. That much seemed obvious.

There is little doubt also, that she, as an influential union leader, did everything within her power to keep schools closed as long as possible.

Indeed, her own words, tweets and interviews throughout the pandemic, as well as her behind-the-scenes lobbying of the CDC to keep schools closed in the name of “protecting teachers,” belie her claims.

And recent revelations indicate that Weingarten and her team had a direct line to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and White House officials who even adopted some union-proposed language in their guidance for school reopenings, which slowed full reopening of in-person instruction for students.

I won’t belabor the depths of deceit reached in her testimony. You can watch it yourself.

But Weingarten’s falsehoods speak to another effect that school closures and other pandemic mitigation has had on the public: a loss of trust in our public schools.

This reality has manifested in many ways, but most obviously in declining enrollment in public schools. Nationwide, enrollment has dropped 3 percent.

Locally, those numbers are even starker.

Currently, Fort Worth ISD has almost 73,000 students, well below 2019 levels. While the decline began before COVID, it increased significantly as a result of the pandemic, so much so that the district has had to make substantial staffing cuts.

According to reports, Superintendent Angélica Ramsey expects that decline to continue until the district hits a pla-

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



teau of about 55,000 students.

I’d argue that on some level, this is not a terrible thing for education.

Distrust in public school leadership has increased public interest in charter and private options; it’s helped make the case for school choice a policy priority.

It may even be why the appetite for education savings accounts in Texas has never been higher.

This silver lining aside, distrust in public institutions is seldom good. So it’s important for us to understand how and why public trust in schools cratered. Even if it means recalling that less than pleasant time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

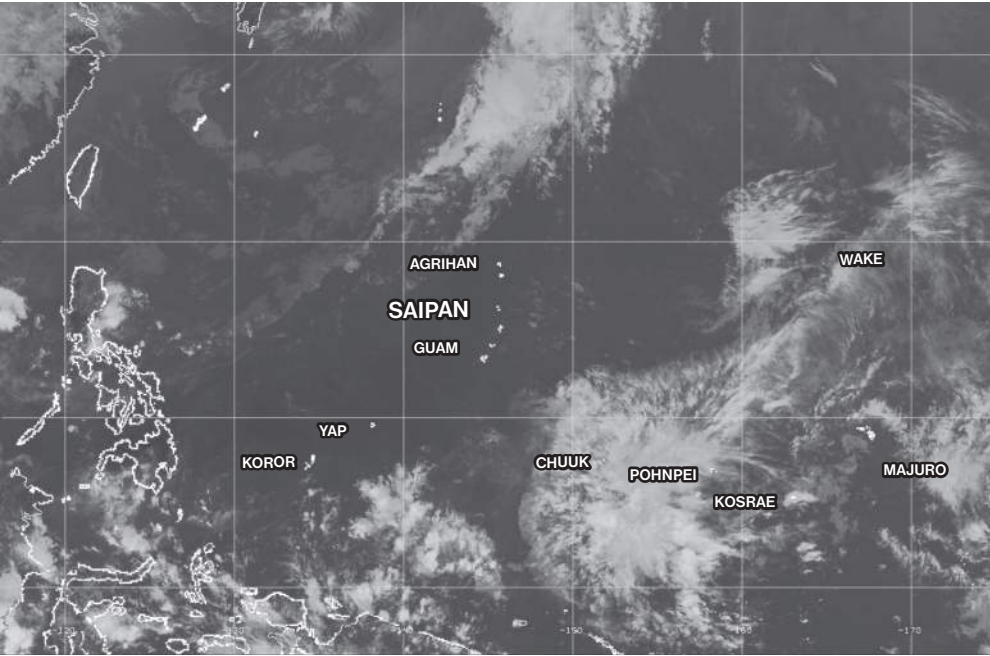
Here’s a tip on how to save the government money

I wonder how much money the government could save if they simply disconnected all the phones in government offices where they sit unanswered.

Jeanne Rayphand
via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:57 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed scattered showers over and to the east of the Marianas this morning. Northeast winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:42 AM	-
Friday	12:12 AM	11:45 AM	-
Saturday	1:02 AM	12:46 PM	-
Sunday	1:47 AM	1:44 PM	-
Monday	2:29 AM	2:39 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Thunderstorms	57° / 48°
Beijing	Cloudy	82° / 54°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	79° / 74°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 71°
London	Light Rain	63° / 49°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	71° / 55°
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Melbourne	Sunny	65° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
New York	Sunny	72° / 56°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	75° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	62° / 48°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 56°
Rome	Thundershowers	70° / 57°
Salem	Thundershowers	85° / 65°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 52°
Tokyo	Showers	71° / 55°
Washington, DC	Showers	75° / 52°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:08 AM	High Tide	1.98
6:24 AM	Low Tide	1.53
10:26 AM	High Tide	1.84
6:21 PM	Low Tide	-0.19

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

HafaAdai Rent A Car takes aim at local, tourist market



From left, HafaAdai Rent A Car general manager Simon Odoca, HafaAdai Rent A Car Operations/Marketing (Pacific Region) manager Mary Grace Bautista, and rental sales agent Rochelle Juangco pose beside two 2023 Ford Mustang convertibles.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Not many people know that HafaAdai Rent A Car is a subsidiary of Joeten Motor Company, Inc. but general manager Simon Odoca hopes to change that with a slew of promotions aimed at the local and tourist market alike.

It started off with the rental car company’s \$24.95 “Beat The Heat of Summer Promo” for their Nissan Versa compact sedan. It comes all inclusive of basic insurance and also offers 40% off on all SUV rentals.

The promotion began last April 26 and will last until Mother’s Day this Sunday, May 14, with a possible extension in the horizon. The promotion is available to Guam and CNMI residents only and includes free pick-up and drop-off.

HafaAdai Rent A Car also unveiled its Room & Car Package promotion in a tie-up with Aqua Resort Club.

Starting as low as \$144.99 (tax also inclusive), it comes with a free room and a rental for a day. Like the “Beat The Heat of Summer Promo,” it includes free pick-up and drop-off and is available only to Guam and CNMI residents.

“I think for a lot of people, HafaAdai Rent A Car sounds like it is new. But actually, from what we understand it’s been in existence for about 16 years,” said Odoca.

It primarily started as an in-service rental, handling internal customers by providing vehicle loaners for customers who brought their vehicles to Joeten Motors for service and repairs.

When Odoca and Operations/Marketing (Pacific Region) manager Mary Grace Bautista joined HafaAdai Rent A Car last November they began looking for external customers.

“As soon as we joined, we

were able to bring the Korean market here. So now we do have a Korean rental market and that was probably our point of expansion in the tourism industry,” he said.

Asked what makes HafaAdai Rent A Car better than other car rental companies in the CNMI, Odoca said their edge is the fact that they have the support of a car dealership.

“Joeten Motors represents Honda, Kia, Nissan and Ford. We have a more diverse fleet that we can add into our rental car fleet. For companies that are not backed up by the dealership they have more difficulty in trying to acquire more vehicles for the fleet. For us,



From left, HafaAdai Rent A Car Operations/Marketing (Pacific Region) manager Mary Grace Bautista, rental sales agent Rochelle Juangco, and general manager Simon Odoca inside the rental company’s office at Joeten Motors Company, Inc.

Biden: Debt meeting ‘productive,’ default ‘not an option’

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden and congressional leaders confronted each other on the debt limit impasse Tuesday, ending their meeting with no breakthrough but agreeing to meet again this week to try to avert the looming risk of an unprecedented government default.

Speaking at the White House, Biden described the talks as “productive” even though House Speaker Kevin McCar-

thy said after the high-stakes Oval Office meeting that he “didn’t see any new movement” toward resolving the stalemate.

Lawmakers and their staffs were to continue discussions on the annual federal budget at Biden’s encouragement. Biden and the congressional leaders are to meet again Friday.

After the hourlong discussion in the Oval Office, Biden said he was “absolutely certain” that the country could

avert a default, declaring that failure to meet America’s obligations “is not an option.”

Still, time is short. The government is bumping up against its legal limit for borrowing and will not be able to pay all of its bills as soon as June 1 if Congress doesn’t agree to raise the debt ceiling. That failure would send the country into default with wide-reaching economic impact at home and around the world.

because we are owned by the dealership, it’s not as difficult for us to bring in additional vehicles.”

Aside from low-mileage rentals and heavy window tint to protect them from Saipan’s punishing midday sun, their rental car prices are also competitive with the Nissan Versa giving the most bang for your buck when it comes to compact sedans in the market.

“All our vehicles are four doors and the Versa is the smallest but compared to our competitors it’s a bigger car. So you’re getting more for your money.”

Aside from the Nissan Versa, HafaAdai Rent A Car’s 55-vehicle fleet also includes high-end brands like the 2023 Nissan Armada, the 2023 Kia Carnival, and the latest Ford Mustang convertibles models.

As for his immediate plans, Odoca is betting on the CNMI tourism industry to rebound so that HafaAdai Rent A Car would be able to serve that emerging market.


Before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2017, Odoca said the car rental company he used to work for saw over a 400% increase in rentals, fueled mostly by visitor arrivals from Korea.

“So the potential is really great dealing with the tourism

market,” he said.

For more information on HafaAdai Rent A Car, call (670) their office inside the Joeten Motors Ford and Honda

showroom at (670) 234-5567 or at their 24-hour car rental office at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at (670) 288-0087.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticomi.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2023

Opening date: May 08, 2023

Closing date: May 26, 2023

Location: SAIPAN
Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Custodial-I
(1) Equipment Operator-I
(1) General Maintenance-I
(1) Master Electrician
(2) Ports Police Trainee

SALARY
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)
PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr to \$14.38/hr)
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (\$17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr)

Location: TINIAN
Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(1) Custodial-I


SALARY
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 26, 2023.**


Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 12, 2023, from 9:00am to 1:00pm at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort – Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Cal

III. Review & Adoption of the Agenda of May 12, 2023

IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023

V. Action Item

a. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2023 DD Basic Grant Budget

b. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2023 AT Program Budget

VI. Reports

a. Chairman

b. State Plan Committee Chairperson

c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d. Executive Director

VII. Old Business

a. April 2023 Autism Awareness Month Update

b. May 2023 Mental Health Awareness Month Update

c. CNMI-UCEDD Summit – June 2023 Update

VIII. New Business

a. CLI Building Update

b. No Tech DIY Activity

IX. Miscellaneous

X. Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes of oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Concepcion Ulloa
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Nation

Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser \$5M

NEW YORK (AP)—A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her \$5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House.

The verdict was split: Jurors rejected Carroll's claim that she was raped, finding Trump responsible for a lesser degree of sexual abuse. The judgment adds to Trump's legal woes and offers vindication to Carroll, whose allegations had been mocked and dismissed by Trump for years.

She nodded as the verdict was announced in a New York City federal courtroom only three hours after deliberations had begun, then hugged supporters and smiled through tears. As the courtroom cleared, Carroll could be heard laughing and crying.

Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll over her allegations. Trump did not attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read.

Trump immediately lashed out on his social media site, claiming that he does not know Carroll and referring to the verdict as "a disgrace" and "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time." He promised to appeal.



In this image taken from video released by Kaplan Hecker & Fink, former President Donald Trump answers questions during his Oct. 19, 2022, deposition for his trial against writer E. Jean Carroll.

Trump's lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, shook hands with Carroll and hugged her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, after the verdict was announced. Outside the courthouse, he told reporters the jury's rejection of the rape claim while finding Trump responsible for sexual abuse was "perplexing" and "strange."

"Part of me was obviously very happy that Donald Trump was not branded a rapist," he said.

He defended Trump's absence, citing the trial's "circus atmosphere." He said having Trump there "would be more of a circus."

Tacopina added: "What more can you say other than 'I didn't do it'?"

In a written statement, Kaplan said the verdict proved nobody is above the law, "not even the president of the United States."

Carroll, in her own statement, said she sued Trump

to "clear my name and to get my life back. Today, the world finally knows the truth. This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed."

It was unclear what, if any, implications the verdict would have on Trump's third presidential bid. He's in a commanding position among GOP contenders and has faced few political consequences in the wake of previous controversies, ranging from the vulgar "Access Hollywood" tape to his New York criminal indictment.

His GOP rivals were

mostly silent after the verdict, a sign of their reluctance to cross Trump supporters who are critical to winning the presidential nomination. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, one of the few vocal Trump critics in the race, said the verdict was "another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump."

Carroll was one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in a 2019 memoir with her allegation that the Republican raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump, 76, denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir.

Carroll, 79, sought unspecified damages, plus a retraction of what she said were Trump's defamatory denials of her claims.

The trial revisited the lightning-rod topic of Trump's conduct toward women.

Carroll gave multiple days of frank, occasionally emotional testimony, buttressed by two friends who testified that she reported the alleged attack to them soon afterward.

Jurors also heard from Jessica Leeds, a former stockbroker who testified that Trump abruptly groped her against her will on an airline flight in the 1970s, and from Natasha Stoyanoff, a writer who said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while she was interviewing him for a 2005 article.

The six-man, three-woman jury also saw the well-known 2005 "Access Hollywood" hot-mic recording of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women without asking.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll, Leeds and Stoyanoff have done.

The verdict comes as Trump faces an accelerating swirl of legal risks.

Officer who killed mall attack shooter hailed as a hero

ALLEN, Texas (AP)—The shooter with neo-Nazi leanings who killed eight people at a suburban Dallas shopping mall brought eight legally purchased guns to the scene, apparently chose his victims randomly and was shot dead by police within four minutes, authorities said Tuesday.

The Allen police officer who shot and killed 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, ending Saturday's attack, acted heroically and saved "countless lives" through his quick action, Hank Sibley, the regional director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said at a news conference. Authorities said the officer is still processing what happened and isn't ready to have his name made public.

"If he hadn't have been there, I think we'd have had a much more severe situation," Sibley said.

The investigation into Garcia's motive is ongoing, but he expressed neo-Nazi beliefs, Sibley said, adding that

Garcia had no criminal history before he opened fire at Allen Premium Outlets.

Garcia brought eight guns to the scene, including three that he had on him and five that were still in his vehicle, Sibley said. Garcia obtained all of the weapons legally. President Joe Biden has said the assailant wore tactical gear and fired an AR-15-style weapon.

Sibley said it seems Garcia "targeted the location, rather than a specific group of people," adding that, "he was very random in the people he killed."

"The big question that we're dealing with right now is, 'What's his motive? Why did he do this?'" Sibley said. "Well, the big question is, we don't know. That's what the investigation is trying to find out."

Posts by Garcia on a Russian social networking site suggest that he planned for weeks before he launched the attack in Allen, a diverse community of about 100,000 people roughly 25

miles (40 kilometers) north of downtown Dallas.

Garcia researched when the mall was busiest—Saturday afternoons—and posted photos on social media in mid-April of a store near where he ultimately began shooting people. Among those killed were two elementary school-age sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, and a 20-year-old security guard who was hailed for his bravery in the shooting.

The security guard, Christian LaCour, "evacuated one individual to safety and was shot while courageously remaining to help others," Allen Police Chief Brian Harvey said at the news conference.

An Associated Press review of Garcia's online activity shows he displayed a fascination with white supremacy and mass shootings, which he described as sport. Photos Garcia posted showed large Nazi tattoos on his arm and torso, including a swastika and the SS lightning bolt logo of Hitler's paramilitary forces.

Days after Texas bus stop crash, little info on the victims

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—Two days after eight people were killed when an SUV slammed into a crowd waiting at a Brownsville bus stop, information on the victims remains scarce, leaving relatives of missing people scrambling to locate loved ones and pleading for information.

Authorities say the driver, 34-year-old George Alvarez of Brownsville, lost control after running a red light Sunday morning but have not ruled out that he may have intentionally plowed into the stop outside the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, a shelter and hub for migrants who cross into the country from nearby Mexico.

Eighteen people were hit, and 10 critically injured.

Fingerprints were collected from the victims. All were male and several were from Venezuela, according to Brownsville police, but so far

none of their identities have been released.

Police said Tuesday that the department has a list of over 120 names of people who want to know if their relatives are among the victims. They include dozens of photos and contact information submitted by desperate families, all fearing a phone call bearing bad news.

"I know everybody wants to know the names," said Investigator Martin Sandoval, a department spokesperson.

One woman who has managed to locate a missing relative is Mileidy Gonzalez, 23, whose 45-year-old uncle, Juan Carlos Paredes was injured in the crash. She found out about it through news reports and a migrant who was staying at the shelter, and family members were able to identify Paredes in videos.

One of the relatives called multiple hospitals before finally finding her uncle. They

were told he was in delicate condition, and they have not been able to communicate directly with him.

"His leg, back and a part of his clavicle. They're waiting on specialists to know whether he needs surgery," Gonzalez said by phone.

Another name on the police list belongs to Hector David Medina-Medero, a 24-year-old Venezuelan who cut hair at the Ozanam shelter. On Tuesday his mother was waiting outside the police department, expecting the worst.

"My son is dead. I know," Marilyn de los Angeles Medero Piña said. "My heart tells me."

Police will use the list to notify families once the confirmation process is complete, but circumstances of the crash have caused delays, according to Sandoval. Complicating the matter is the fact that many of the victims did not have official identification on them.

Asia

Japan, US, South Korea discuss sharing of N. Korea missile data

TOKYO (AP)—Japan, the United States and South Korea are negotiating an agreement on sharing real-time data on North Korean missile launches, as cooperation among the three nations becomes increasingly important amid growing nuclear and missile threats from the North, Japan's chief government spokesperson said Tuesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said there has been no agreement yet, but "I understand that defense authorities are vigorously proceeding to set up an arrangement."

"The security environment surrounding Japan and South Korea is becoming more severe and more complex, and coordination between the two countries as well as trilaterally with the United States has become increasingly important," Matsuno said.

Japan and South Korea are both key U.S. allies and their cooperation is key to Washington's security strategy in the Indo-Pacific as tensions grow with China, North Korea and Russia.

Japan and South Korea have been separately linked to data from U.S. radar systems but not directly to each other due to difficult relations strained by dis-

putes over history, most recently over South Korean court rulings in 2018 ordering Japanese companies to compensate Korean workers for wartime abuses including forced labor. Leaders of the three countries agreed last November to speed up information sharing on North Korean ballistic missile launches.

Japan's Yomiuri newspaper reported earlier Tuesday that Japan and South Korea are nearing agreement on connecting their radars via a U.S. system to share real-time North Korean missile warning information, which would help strengthen Japanese missile defense capabilities.

The Yomiuri said the three countries are expected to reach an agreement in early June on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual defense ministers' conference being held in Singapore. Japanese and South Korean defense ministers will hold bilateral talks during the conference, the Yomiuri said.

Ties between Japan and South Korea have rapidly thawed in recent months, largely because of their shared sense of urgency over escalating regional security threats.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's conserva-

tive government announced in March a domestically contentious plan to use local corporate funds to compensate Korean victims of forced labor without demanding contributions from Japan. Yoon then visited Tokyo and agreed with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to overcome their disputes over history to deal with more pressing concerns, prompting a resumption of defense, trade and other talks.

Kishida visited Seoul this week, where he avoided making a new, direct apology over Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula but sympathized with Korean victims over their ordeals in an apparent effort to maintain the momentum for improving ties.

Kishida said he and Yoon will pay respects at a memorial for Korean atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima during this month's summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations, where Yoon has been invited as a guest. Tokyo will allow South Korean experts to inspect preparations at the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant for the release of treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater, which many Koreans oppose, Kishida said.

ASEAN leaders condemn armed attack on aid convoy in Myanmar

LABUAN BAJO, Indonesia (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders condemned an armed attack on an aid convoy that the regional group had arranged for displaced people in Myanmar, calling Wednesday for an immediate stop to violence and for the military government to comply with a peace plan.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations convened in the picturesque harbor town of Labuan Bajo in southern Indonesia at the start of a two-day summit. Their host, President Joko Widodo, called for unity amid global economic headwinds and major-power rivalry that's lashing the region.

The 10-nation bloc is also being pressed to address the crisis underway in member state Myanmar.

Over the weekend, a convoy delivering aid to displaced villagers and carrying Indonesian and Singaporean diplomats came under fire by unidentified men armed with pistols in Myanmar's eastern Shan state. A security team with the convoy returned fire and a vehicle was damaged, but no one in the convoy was injured, state-run television MRTV reported.

Indonesia, which serves as ASEAN's chair this year, had arranged for the deliv-

ery of the aid after a long-delayed assessment.

"We condemned the attack and underlined that the perpetrators must be held accountable," the ASEAN leaders said in a joint statement Wednesday.

For the second year, the top general of member state Myanmar was not invited to the summit. He and his army forcibly took power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 in a power grab that degenerated into a civil strife in what has become ASEAN's gravest crisis since its 1967 founding.

ASEAN leaders said they were "deeply concerned with ongoing violence in Myanmar and urged the immediate cessation of all forms of violence and the use of force to create a conducive environment for the safe and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogues."

In an additional concern involving Myanmar, Indonesian officials said Sunday that 20 of their nationals, who were trafficked into Myanmar and forced to perform cyber scams, had been freed from Myanmar's Myawaddy township and brought to the Thai border over the weekend. During the summit, ASEAN

leaders planned to express their concern over such human trafficking schemes in a joint statement, a draft copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

More than 3,450 civilians have been killed by security forces since Myanmar's military forcibly took power, and thousands more remain imprisoned, said the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which keeps tallies of casualties and arrests linked to repression by the military government.

In April, military airstrikes killed as many as 100 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony by opponents of army rule, according to witnesses. Human Rights Watch on Tuesday described the strike as an "apparent war crime."

Indonesia has considerably eased its fierce criticism of Myanmar's military since assuming the rotating role as ASEAN's leader. Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said her country is taking "a non-megaphone diplomacy approach" to encourage dialogue and end violence, which are goals of a five-point peace plan Southeast Asian leaders negotiated with Myanmar's top general in 2021.

World

Putin tells WWII event West is waging a 'real war' on Russia



AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech during the Victory Day military parade marking the 78th anniversary of the end of World War II in Red square in Moscow, Russia, Monday, May 9, 2022.

President Vladimir Putin declared Tuesday that the West has unleashed "a real war" against Russia, reprising a familiar refrain at scaled-down Victory Day celebrations that may reflect the toll the Ukraine conflict is taking on his forces.

Putin's remarks came just hours after Moscow fired its latest barrage of cruise missiles at targets in Ukraine, which Russia invaded more than 14 months ago. Ukrainian authorities said air defenses destroyed 23 of 25 missiles launched.

The Russian leader has repeatedly sought to paint his invasion of Ukraine as necessary to defend against a Western threat. Kyiv and its Western allies say they pose no such threat and that Moscow's war is meant to deter Western influence in a coun-

try that Russia considers part of its sphere of influence.

"Today civilization is once again at a decisive turning point," Putin said at the annual commemorations celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. "A real war has been unleashed against our motherland."

Putin has often used patriotic rhetoric that harkens back to the earlier war in an effort to rally his citizens and forces — and May 9 is one of the most important dates in the Russian political calendar. But this year's celebrations were markedly smaller, at least partially because of security concerns after several drone attacks have been reported inside Russia.

Some 8,000 troops took part in the parade in Moscow's Red Square on Tues-

day — the lowest number since 2008. Even the procession in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, featured some 13,000 soldiers, and last year, 11,000 troops took part. There was no fly-over of military jets, and the event lasted less than the usual hour.

"This is weak. There are no tanks," said Yelena Orlova, watching the vehicles rumble down Moscow's Novy Arbat avenue after leaving Red Square. "We're upset, but that's all right; it will be better in the future."

The Kremlin's forces deployed in Ukraine are defending a front line stretching more than 1,000 kilometers (600 miles), presumably thinning the ranks of troops available for such displays.

Thousands march in silence in Serbia after mass shootings

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Thousands marched in silence on Monday in Serbia in a major outpouring of grief and anger against the populist government and how it reacted after two mass shootings last week that left 17 people dead and 21 wounded, many of them children.

The gatherings in Belgrade and the northern city of Novi Sad were dubbed "Serbia against violence." They were called by opposition parties, which demanded the resignations of government ministers and the withdrawal licenses to the state controlled mainstream media that promote violence and often host convicted war criminals and crime figures on their programs.

After the protest officially ended, some of the protesters chanted slogans against Serbia's increasingly autocratic president, Aleksandar Vucic, demanding that he step down,

as they passed by government headquarters in Belgrade.

The president later dismissed the protest as "shameful" during an interview on pro-government Happy television. He accused the opposition of abusing people's grief for their political ends and inciting violence.

"It's pure politics," said Vucic, also describing the organizers as "vultures."

The shootings — on Wednesday in Belgrade at an elementary school, and on Thursday in a rural area south of the capital — left the nation stunned. They triggered calls to encourage tolerance and rid society of widespread hate speech and a gun culture stemming from the 1990s wars.

Education Minister Branko Ruzic submitted his resignation on Sunday and authorities launched a gun crackdown, but opposition said this was too little, too late.

There were no official esti-

mates of crowds that streamed into central Belgrade streets on Monday evening, but observers described the gathering as the biggest in years against Vucic and his government. In Novi Sad, participants held a banner reading "Everything has to stop" and threw flowers into the Danube River to commemorate those killed in the shootings.

"We have to learn anew how to speak to each other and how to create a healthy future ... to nurture the beauty of living, of art, science and humanity," said Biljana Stojkovic, a leader of the leftist Zajedno, or Together, party. "The worst among us have been in power for an entire decade, and they imposed the norms of aggression, intolerance, crime and lies."

One of the largest anti-government protest in recent years in Serbia also reflected how rattled the nation has been by the shootings.

Environment

Warming-stoked tides eating huge holes in Greenland glacier

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Daily tides stoked with increasingly warmer water ate a hole taller than the Washington Monument at the bottom of one of Greenland's major glaciers in the last couple years, accelerating the retreat of a crucial part of the glacier, a new study found.

And scientists worry that the phenomenon isn't limited to this one glacier, raising questions about previous projections of melting rates on the world's vulnerable ice sheets.

The rapid melt seen in this study was in the far northwest of Greenland on Petermann Glacier. If it is happening in the rest of Greenland and

the even bigger Antarctic ice sheet, then global ice loss and the sea level rise could jump as much as twice as fast as previously thought, according to the study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"It's bad news," said study author Eric Rignot, a glaciologist at University of California Irvine. "We know the current projections are too conservative. We know that they have a really hard time matching the current record" of melt.

He said this newly found consequence of tidal activity "could potentially double the projections" of global melt.

The study looks at the all-important grounding line area of glaciers on ice sheets.

That's the point where glaciers go from being on land to floating on water. Previous studies show it's also a key spot for rapid ice loss.

At remote Petermann, where few people have been and there are no base camps, that grounding line zone is more than six-tenths of a mile (1 kilometer) wide and could be as much as 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) wide, the study said.

Scientists used to think the daily tides weren't a big deal on melt. The snow added on top of the glacier compensated for the tides moving further in, said Rignot, the day before he left for an expedition to Petermann.

But with an ocean that's warmer because of climate

change the tides became "a very powerful mechanism," Rignot said.

"The sea water actually goes much farther beneath the grounded ice (than previously thought), kilometers, not hundreds of meters," Rignot said. "And that water is full of heat and able to melt the glaciers vigorously. And it's kind of the most sensitive part of the glacier."

Using satellite altitude measurements, Rignot's team found a 669-foot tall (204 meters) cavity at the grounding line where the melt rate is 50% higher in the last three years than it was from 2016 to 2019. Previous models forecast zero melt there.

The melting in Petermann has accelerated in the last few

years, later than the rest of Greenland, probably because it is so far north that the water melting it from underneath is from the North Atlantic and it takes longer for the warmer water to reach there, Rignot theorized.

Rignot this month is exploring Petermann to get more ground-based measurements using ultrasound. He hasn't been there since 2006, a decade before the changes were seen via satellite. Visiting Petermann, even before the glacier's retreat accelerated, Rignot said he noticed movements that make it seem like a living thing.

"When you are standing on that shelf or sleeping on the shelf you hear noise all the time, loud noises from deep inside cracks forming," Rignot said. "That's where the concept of a glacier being alive starts getting to you."

Greenland ice researcher

Jason Box of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, who wasn't part of the research, called Rignot's technique clever and said the study makes sense, showing "that ocean heat delivery to tidewater glacier grounding lines represents a potent destabilizing effect."

Box, who uses a different technique to calculate how much ice is no longer being fed by glaciers and is doomed to melt, something called "zombie ice," figures 434 billion metric tons of ice on Petermann is already committed to melting.

The study provides strong evidence that models need to include these tidal effects deep inland and if they don't, then they are underestimating future sea level rise, said Pennsylvania State University glaciologist Richard Alley, who wasn't part of the Rignot study.

Spain records hottest and driest April on record



A plant is photographed on a cracked earth after the water level has dropped in the Sau reservoir, about 100 km (62 miles) north of Barcelona, Spain, on April 18, 2023.

AP

MADRID (AP)—Drought-stricken Spain says last month was the hottest and driest April since records began in 1961.

The State Meteorological Agency, known by the Spanish acronym AEMET, said Monday the average daily temperature in April was 14.9 degrees Celsius (58.8 Fahrenheit), that is

3 degrees Celsius above the average.

AEMET said average maximum temperatures during the month were up by 4.7 Celsius.

Rainfall was a fifth of what would normally be expected in the month, making it the driest April on record in Spain.

Last year was Spain's hot-

test since record-keeping started in 1961, and also the country's sixth driest.

Three years of scant rainfall and high temperatures put the country officially into long-term drought earlier this year.

A flash study by a group of international scientists last week found that record-breaking April tempera-

tures in Spain, Portugal and northern Africa were made 100 times more likely by human-caused climate change and would have been almost impossible in the past.

The government has requested emergency funds from the European Union to support farmers and ranchers whose crops are being affected by the situation.

Wildfires rage in Russia's Ural mountains, Siberia

MOSCOW (AP)—Wildfires have engulfed large areas in Russia's Ural mountains and in Siberia this week, with authorities promising to swiftly contain them.

A total of over 54,000 hectares of forests in the Sverdlovsk region in the Urals were on fire as of Monday morning, according to local authorities. More than 4,800 firefighters have been battling the blaze, with some 6,000 volunteers helping them.

Head of Russia's Federal Forestry Agency Ivan Sovetnikov said Monday he expected "most major fires in the region to be contained and put out" within two to three days. It wasn't immediately clear if such a goal was too optimistic: on Sunday night, the area engulfed in flames stood at 33,000 hectares, but it grew significantly overnight.

In the neighboring Kurgan region, the fires have already destroyed more than 300 residential houses and 3,900 other buildings, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing local emergency officials.

Kurgan Governor Vadim Shumkov said a number of people had been killed and injured by the fires, without specifying how many, and called the situation in the region "very difficult." Russia's Emergency Minister Alexander Kurenkov flew out to Kurgan on Monday morning and reported that most of the fires in the region

had been contained.

In the Siberian region of Omsk, local authorities have declared a regional state of emergency because of the fires. Local media reported that the city of Omsk, the regional capital, has been covered with a thick layer of smoke since Monday morning.

In the neighboring Tyumen region, 12 wildfires raged as of Monday morning. Tyumen authorities also declared a state of emergency on Sunday.

"Every day we register new sources of wildfires and forest fires. All this is exacerbated by very hot dry weather and strong winds," Tyumen Governor Alexander Moor said on Sunday.

In recent years, Russia has experienced especially widespread forest fires, which experts blame on unusually dry summers and high temperatures.

The experts also blame a 2007 decision to disband a federal aviation network tasked with spotting and combating fires. Its assets were turned over to the regional authorities, leading to the force's rapid decline and attracting much criticism.

The government later reversed the move and reestablished the federal agency in charge of monitoring forests from the air. However, its resources remain limited, making it hard to survey the massive forests of Siberia and the Far East.

Life & Style

Marilyn Manson lawsuit against ex Evan Rachel Wood gutted

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California judge on Tuesday threw out key sections of Marilyn Manson's lawsuit against his former fiancée, "Westworld" actor Evan Rachel Wood, claiming she fabricated public allegations that he sexually and physically abused her during their relationship and encouraged other women to do the same.

Manson's suit, filed last year, alleges that Wood and another woman named as a

defendant, Illma Gore, defamed Manson, intentionally caused him emotional distress and derailed his career in music, TV and film. It says they used false pretenses, including a phony letter from the FBI, to convince other women to come forward with sexual abuse allegations and coached them on what to say about Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner.



Manson

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Teresa A. Beaudet dismissed the part of the suit dealing with the disputed FBI letter, which Wood denies forging. Beaudet also tossed out a section that alleges Wood and Gore used a checklist found on an iPad for other women to use to make abuse claims about Manson.

The judge did not rule on

the merits of the FBI letter, but found that the evidence that the defendants used it to recruit other women and harm Manson was hypothetical and thin. Evidence was also lacking that Wood and Gore created the checklist, Beaudet found. She said the probability of Manson prevailing on either part was low.

Beaudet's ruling relied on California law meant to protect the free speech of defen-

dants from being squelched by lawsuits.

"We are very pleased with the Court's ruling, which affirms and protects Evan's exercise of her fundamental First Amendment rights," Wood's attorney Michael Kump said in a statement. "As the Court correctly found, Plaintiff failed to show that his claims against her have even minimal merit."

Manson's attorney said he plans an immediate appeal.

"The ruling is disappointing but not unexpected," Manson's attorney Howard King said in an email. "The Court telegraphed this outcome when it refused to consider the bombshell sworn declaration of former plaintiff Ashley Smithline, which detailed how women were systematically pressured by Evan Rachel Wood and Illma Gore to make false claims about Brian Warner."

Tory Lanez denied new trial in Megan Thee Stallion shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge on Tuesday denied a motion for a new trial from lawyers for rapper Tory Lanez, who was convicted of three felonies in December for shooting hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion in the feet and wounding her.

Superior Court Judge Herriford rejected arguments from lawyers for Lanez that evidence was wrongly admitted at the trial he presided over. He said that the exclusion of the disputed evidence would not have made a difference at the trial.



Lanez

Lanez, 30, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, will now be sentenced for convictions of assault with a semi-automatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence. He could get up to 22 years in prison and faces deportation to his native Canada.

As he was led from the courtroom back to jail after a

hearing on the motion a day earlier, he pleaded with Herriford to help him, saying "I could be your son. I could be your brother."

Motions for a new trial filed immediately afterward with the same judge are a common precursor to appealing to a higher court, which

Lanez's attorneys plan to do. The motions are very rarely successful.

Lanez's lawyers asserted that a post from his Instagram account was improperly admitted into evidence. They said that Megan's testimony that Lanez urged her not to go to police because he was on parole and would be in serious trouble was both untrue and an improper allowance of prior bad acts. And they said DNA evidence that prosecutors used to argue Lanez was the likely shooter fell well short of industry standards.

Lanez's attorneys were disappointed from the start of Monday's all-day oral argu-

ments on their motion.

They had an elaborate presentation prepared, complete with audio-visuals and witnesses, but Herriford would have none of it, insisting instead on narrow legal arguments on the precise issues raised, the norm for such motions in California court.

They pleaded at length with Herriford to allow them to present their arguments in the way they had planned.

"I feel that I would be ineffective if we proceeded," defense attorney Jose Baez said. "Mr. Peterson has the right to due process for which he is entitled."

They moved on under protest, and later filed a motion to have the judge disqualified.

Lanez's lawyers, who did not represent him at trial, said the attorney who did, George Mgdessyan, made mistakes in his case because he was given so little time to prepare before trial when the rapper's previous attorney dropped out.

Robert De Niro, at 79, becomes a father for the 7th time

Robert De Niro has welcomed another child. The 79-year-old is now the father of seven.

A representative for De Niro confirmed the birth to The Associated Press on Tuesday but said no other details were expected.

At a film premiere Tuesday night, De Niro told The Associated Press about becoming a father again:



De Niro

"It's always good and mysterious and you don't know what the hell is going to happen."

The Oscar winner is also a parent to Drena, 51, and Raphael, 46, from his first marriage; and twins, Julian and Aaron, 27; Elliot, 24; and Helen Grace, 11, from his second marriage.

De Niro is currently pro-

moting the new comedy "About My Father," which opens on May 26.

De Niro is a two-time Oscar winner for his supporting role in "The Godfather: Part II" and best actor in "Raging Bull." In 2011, he was also honored with the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award for his impact on the world of entertainment and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom five years later. (AP)

Tucker Carlson says he's coming back with show on Twitter

NEW YORK (AP)—Fired Fox news host Tucker Carlson said Tuesday that he will be putting out a "new version" of his program on Twitter.

Carlson made his announcement in a three-minute video posted on the social media site, as part of a denunciation of media. He called Twitter that last big remaining platform that allows free speech.

"We'll be bringing a new version of the show we've been doing for the last six and a half years to Twitter," he

said. "We'll bring some other things, too, which we'll tell you about. But for now we're just grateful to be here."

He offered no other details, and a message to his lawyer, Bryan Freedman, was not immediately returned.

It's unclear what these plans mean for his remaining contract with Fox; typically television companies include a no-compete clause when someone leaves the air. A Fox

spokeswoman didn't immediately return a call for comment.

Axios reported on Tuesday that Carlson's lawyers sent a letter to Fox accusing the network of fraud and breach of contract.

Fox announced on April 24 that it was cutting ties with Carlson, its most popular prime-time anchor. The network offered no explanation for the move, and Fox's ratings in his old time slot have sharply fallen.



Carlson

Three's a crowd for single man and his parents

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-something single gay man. My parents are older and have a strained marriage. They no longer have a relationship but stay together. I live with them because of money issues, and they sometimes need assistance. I do not have the ability to bring friends or dates over, and I feel as if my mental health is being affected because of this, among other things.

I own the house we live in, but because my folks are helping me, I feel I can't tell them to leave. They irritate me to no end, and I feel awful about that. What can I do to encourage them to leave me alone?

FRUSTRATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: You and your parents are all adults. In a sense, your relationship with them now is its own "marriage of convenience." You are overdue for a frank conversation with your parents about boundaries and privacy. You should be able to entertain friends, and your folks should give you the space to do it. You should also care less what they think about the way you conduct your life. You are a big boy now, and as an adult, you can do what you like.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am having a conflict with my 27-year-old

daughter over watching my grandson. She thinks I should watch him every day because I don't have a life and she wants to live hers. I love my grandson, but I'm 54 and have medical issues. I had a heart attack last year on top of having diabetes and back pain. I'm not employed, but I tire easily.

I told her I want to see him when it's convenient for me and, if she asks ahead of time, I will watch him—but not all the time. I believe it's up to her and the father, who is unreliable about watching him. Now when I ask to pick him up at school, unless I'm keeping him for a while, she refuses. I'm the only grandmother in his life, but she wants to keep me from him unless it's on her terms. What is your opinion on this?

CONFLICTED GRAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR GRAN: My opinion is your daughter is attempting to blackmail you, and you should stand your ground. She is frustrated that her child's father is unreliable, and she is looking for someone to share her responsibility. For the sake of your health, please don't let it be you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I dated a separated married man for six months. He said he wanted a committed relationship with me, but after two months, he decided he still wanted to have sex with his wife occasionally. I assumed he'd be with her, like, maybe once a month or once every three months. He

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



told me I would be his primary girl. Well, I found out that she, not I, was primary.

I have cut it off with him and am now moving on, but he still wants to be friends. At first, I did too. But now, when I look back at the betrayal, I no longer want to be his friend. Am I wrong? Should I continue the friendship?

SECOND PLACE IN MARYLAND

DEAR SECOND PLACE: No, and NO!

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Screen material
- 5 Mata —
- 9 Marry
- 12 Choir voices
- 13 On the rocks
- 14 Stable diet?
- 15 Receptionist's promise
- 17 St. crosser
- 18 Use a tab key
- 19 Fall bloom
- 21 UFO pilot
- 22 Church keyboard
- 24 Summer coolers
- 27 Pair
- 28 Salon request
- 31 "— had it!"
- 32 JFK info
- 33 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 34 Cab
- 36 Upper limb
- 37 Dance move

DOWN

- 1 Polite
- 2 Carolina college
- 3 Poker type
- 4 New staffers
- 5 Pointer sash
- 6 Expert serve
- 7 Actor Harrison
- 8 Suitcase attachment
- 9 "Is there more?"
- 10 Roof edge
- 11 Color worker
- 16 Tolkien creature
- 20 Potential syrup
- 22 Unconventional
- 23 Meander
- 24 In shape
- 25 Glam Gardner
- 26 "Better luck —"
- 27 Lifeless
- 29 Caviar base
- 30 Unruly hair
- 35 Writer Levin
- 37 Most miffed
- 39 Poker champ — Duke
- 40 Stanley Cup org.
- 41 Fizzy drink
- 42 Border on
- 43 Dele undoer
- 44 Prior nights
- 45 Second in command
- 46 Lodge members
- 49 Shade provider
- 50 Noon, on a sundial

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 40; Amanda Freitag, 51; Frances Fisher, 71; Eric Burdon, 82.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and give your emotions a chance to subside so you can reflect and make the best decisions. Once you figure out which path is best for you, your energy and enthusiasm will help you bring about positive changes that will help you fulfill your dreams. Distance yourself from those offering confusion and chaos. Align yourself with those who strive for truth and progress. Your numbers are 4, 8, 20, 24, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep tabs on where your money goes. Putting together a budget you can live with will ease your mind. Too much of anything will lead to tension. Offer what's realistic, and you'll avoid feeling angry and mistreated. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your energy into home improvements and getting along with the people who make a difference in your life. Speak up about the way you feel, and you'll resolve pending issues. Once you figure out everyone's motives, you'll know how to proceed. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research will make a difference in how a situation concerning institutions or authority figures unravels. Stick to the facts, regardless of who prompts you to embellish the truth. Live up to your promises, pay your dues and join forces with like-minded people. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can help by sharing your thoughts, not your cash. A positive attitude will significantly impact those you encounter and position

you to gain support and win favors that will help you make a difference and advance your agenda. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work toward your goal, but don't launch your plans prematurely. Taking care of all the details yourself is essential to ensure success. Let your imagination lead the way. Make a move for the right reason. Control your emotions and act on principle. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set yourself up to win. Put everything in its place and position yourself for success. Sticking to your plan and focusing on what's essential will save you from taking on too much. Discipline and hard work will attract the help you require. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll miss an opportunity if you take on too much or overspend on something you don't really need. Set your sights on what's important to you and follow through. Don't let an argument slow you down if action makes the difference. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What you do will make a difference. Keep your feelings to yourself and focus on the possibilities. Put creative thought and muscle behind your ideas, and everything else will fall into place. You'll win favors with questions and compliments. Romance is favored. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Converse about the changes you want to implement, and the feedback you get will offer valuable suggestions. Don't feel intimidated; take the information you gather and use it to convince others to see things your way. Trust your judgment over others. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home and family. Listen to grievances and make adjustments that ease tension and ensure success. Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Home improvements focusing on fitness and health will drive you to surpass your expectations. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you wish for; too much of anything will work against your goal. Look for opportunities that will help you save enough to invest more in yourself and your ability to keep up with what's trending. Take nothing for granted. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Peace of mind comes from a solid plan. Concentrate on home and family. Surround yourself with people and comforts that put your mind at ease and allow your imagination to devise how best to move forward with your plans. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, popular and unique. You are astute and stubborn.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

				9				1	5	2		
		7									3	
2		3	4									
6	4	5	7	3	2	9						
		8							2	7		
	2							3		4		
	7			6	8	2	3					
	5	2				4	7					
			2	4	7	8						

Difficulty: ★★★

5/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

2	1	7	8	4	6	5	3	9
9	8	3	7	5	1	4	2	6
4	5	6	9	3	2	8	7	1
1	9	4	3	7	5	6	8	2
7	2	5	6	9	8	1	4	3
6	3	8	2	1	4	7	9	5
5	7	1	4	2	3	9	6	8
3	6	9	5	8	7	2	1	4
8	4	2	1	6	9	3	5	7

Difficulty: ★★★

5/10

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

E-GIFT CARDS Solution: 9 letters

S N O I S A C C O N U M B E R
D I G I T A L P R E P A I D B
S R S N R E I H S A C G G E E
L A E D O R E E N I L N O Z A
S E L S O I N V F L I E R I U
S W E E C O T E A M S T C R T
E T U E S I N G A L S I R P Y
N O F S N G C A E U C E A Y
I O C A A E T O N S E E D Y G
S F V H R I H S R I N H I M E
U E C O P C G K I T T A T E T
B X T O Y S U O E R C R R N A
E S W O R B O O I N T E O T R
Y A D I L O H B O N U S L P T
P R E S E N T N E M I T N E S

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication. www.mcmeel.com 5/11
Beauty, Birthday, Bonus, Books, Browse, Business, Cashier, Client, Crafts, Credit, Deal, Digital, Electronics, Exchange, Fees, Flier, Footwear, Fuel, Gaming, Holiday, Issue, Magnetic, Number, Occasions, Online, Payment, Prepaid, Present, Prize, Sales, Save, Sentiment, Sporting Goods, Store, Strategy, Thought, Toys, Transaction, Value
Yesterday's Answer: Manchester

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Embiid scores 33, 76ers beat Celtics 115-103 for 3-2 lead



BOSTON (AP)— Having silenced the TD Garden crowd and put the defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics on the brink of a second-round exit, 76ers players barely cracked a smile as they walked off the court.

"It's not over. We have to get one more," Joel Embiid said. "All of us. We have to show up."

They'll soon get that chance.

Embiid scored 33 points and Philadelphia easily took a 3-2 lead in the East semifinals, beating Boston 115-103 on Tuesday night.

The 76ers led by as many as 21 points in the fourth quarter as home fans booed the Celtics, and can close out the series and advance to the conference finals when they host Game 6 on Thursday night. Philadelphia hasn't reached that stage of the playoffs since 2001.

"What we did tonight, it's easier said than done. But we have to do it again," Embiid said.

It was the third straight 30-point game in the series for the reigning MVP, who used his full array offensive weapons to pick apart the Celtics defense. He also had seven rebounds, four blocks and three 3-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey added 30 points and six 3-pointers. James Harden finished with 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Coach Doc Rivers likened Harden's play to that of a catcher in baseball calling the perfect game, putting his teammates in optimal position while also scoring big buckets in key moments.

Rivers said it helped his team endure each of Boston's attempts to get back into the game.

"You just have breathe through it and our guys did that," Rivers said.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 36 points but was just 11 of 27 from the field. Jaylen Brown finished with 24 points. The Celtics went 12 of 38 from the 3-point line.

"I think we just didn't have it today," Tatum said.

If there's any solace for Boston, it's that the Celtics survived this exact scenario last year in this round, overcoming a 3-2 deficit to defeat the Milwaukee Bucks.

"If you're not willing to get dirty, if you're not willing to pretty much bleed, if you're not willing to break something...then you shouldn't be on that court," Celtics guard Marcus Smart said. "Because that's what it is. That's what the playoffs are about."

The previous two occasions the 76ers were in a second-round series that was tied 2-2, they were blown out in Game 5 — a 36-point loss to Toronto in 2019 and 35-point loss to Miami last season.

Not this time.

The 76ers led by as many as 19 points in the third quar-



Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) is pressured by Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) during the first half of Game 5 in an NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference semifinal Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Boston.

ter and took an 88-72 lead into the fourth.

A quick flurry by the Celtics cut the deficit to 11, but Philadelphia responded with a 10-2 run to push it back up to 102-83.

It was 105-89 when Brown got free on a fast break and attempted to drop in a layup. But Embiid, who stayed in pursuit, was there to swat it away.

Philadelphia made a concerted effort to get the ball to Embiid in the post from the outset. He was able to knock down mid-range jumpers, helping to open the floor for his teammates as Boston's big men were pulled out of the paint.

Meanwhile, the Celtics struggled to find their shot throughout.

The 76ers enjoyed an early rebounding advantage and had success with Embiid running pick-and-roll sets at Al Horford. It led to scoring opportunities for Embiid and contributed to Philadelphia building a 15-point lead in the first half.

Tatum missed his first six attempts before hitting a runner with 5:48 left in the second quarter. He finished the first half with 15 points but was just 3 of 11 from the field (1 of 6 from 3-point range).

Boston eventually cobbled together a 10-0 run to cut into the deficit, but Philadelphia settled down and went into half-time with a 58-49 lead.

Harden said the Sixers' mindset heading back home with a chance to closeout the series is clear.

"Don't think too much of it, just go out there and play our brand of basketball," he said.

NUGGETS 118, SUNS 102

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic had a triple-double after making up with Suns owner Mat Ishbia

and Michael Porter Jr. sank five 3-pointers to help the Denver Nuggets beat Phoenix 118-102 on Tuesday night for a 3-2 series lead.

Joker had 29 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for his 10th career playoff triple-double, breaking a tie with Wilt Chamberlain for most by a center in NBA history.

"To be honest, I just like to win the game, so whatever it takes," said Jokic, who was coming off a career-best 53-point performance in Game 4.

Game 6 is Thursday night in Phoenix.

"If we play the way we did today," Jokic said, "we're going to have a chance" to close

out the series and advance to the Western Conference Finals for the first time since the NBA bubble in 2020.

The Suns are confident they can shake this one off just like they did in bouncing back from two losses in Denver last week.

"Yeah. I've been in here a couple of times now," Phoenix star Devin Booker said. "I love it. Every game has its own character. Every game is its own movie, its own different preparation and everything to go with it. We're going watch over film, see how we can be better for Game 6."

The home team has won every game in the series. If that holds true again, the de-

cisive winner-take-all clash will come Sunday back in Denver, where the top-seeded Nuggets own the NBA's best home record at 40-7, including 6-0 in the playoffs.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone devised a five-point plan for the Nuggets to regain control of the series after losing two in Phoenix: patch up their transition defense, slow down Booker, get more from his bench, unleash MPJ and knock down open 3s.

Check, check, check, check and check.

Porter bounced back from a quiet night in Game 4 with 19 points on 5-of-8 shooting from long range. Denver out-

scored Phoenix 31-23 in fast-break points; Booker scored 28 points but missed 11 of 19 shots; Bruce Brown boosted the Nuggets' bench with 25 points and the Nuggets sank 13 of 27 from long range.

Jamal Murray added 19 points for Denver, and Kevin Durant chipped in 26 points for Phoenix but also had an uncharacteristic five turnovers.

The Nuggets turned a three-point halftime lead into a 91-74 cushion with a dominant third quarter in which Jokic made seven of eight shots for 17 points and Booker was just 1-for-8 for 3 points.

The chippiness of the series reached a new level in the final minute of the third quarter when Nuggets swingman Brown antagonized the Suns as they huddled up on the court and Durant gave Jokic a forearm shiver. A double technical was assessed on Durant and Brown.

"Just to see what they were drawing up," Jokic said when asked why he and Brown were spying on the Suns.

Durant called the dust-up "absolutely nothing, it wasn't anything serious. They were excited, they were up big and we were trying to draw up some stuff. So, it was nothing."

So, no need for a hug and a handshake next time they play.

Before this game, Jokic shared a warm pregame embrace — and the basketball — with Ishbia 48 hours after their kerfuffle over a loose ball in Phoenix in Game 4 resulted in a technical foul and a \$25,000 fine for the Nuggets big man.

"I was hoping he was going to pay my fine," Jokic cracked after the game.

NBA BRIEFS

Nikola Jokic jokingly tosses basketball to Suns owner Ishbia

DENVER (AP)—The sideline fracas between Nuggets superstar Nikola Jokic and Suns owner Matt Ishbia over the weekend apparently is a case of basketball bygones. Jokic, who was fined \$25,000 by the NBA for making contact with Ishbia during Game 4, flipped the ball to Ishbia at midcourt Tuesday night after he finished warming up ahead of Game 5. Ishbia laughed as he caught the ball and rose to greet Jokic. The two men shared a "bro hug," and brief comments before Jokic continued toward the tunnel with a smile and Ishbia, also grinning, rolled the ball back onto the court. Things weren't so congenial between the two 48 hours earlier when Jokic tried to snatch the ball from the new Suns owner who

was sitting courtside after a Suns player knocked it out of bounds and fell into the seats. Ishbia wouldn't let go, preventing Jokic from quickly handing it to an official for a 5-on-4 break. Jokic took exception and elbowed Ishbia, drawing a technical foul. Ishbia lobbied the league not to suspend the two-time NBA MVP on Monday, when Jokic was fined \$25,000 but not ordered to sit out Tuesday night's game in Denver.

Jackson, Holiday, Lopez headline NBA All-Defensive Team

NEW YORK (AP)—Defensive Player of the Year Jaren Jackson Jr. of Memphis and Milwaukee's Jrue Holiday and Brook Lopez headlined the NBA's All-Defensive team Tuesday. Also voted to the first team were Cleveland forward Evan Mobley and

Chicago guard Alex Caruso. Jackson, the NBA leader with 3.0 blocked shots per game, received 96 of 100 first-team votes and finished with 195 points for his second All-Defensive team selection. Holiday was just behind him with 94 first-team votes and 192 points, earning a fifth career selection (three firsts, two seconds.) Lopez, the runner-up to Jackson for Defensive Player of the Year, had 185 points and 85 first-team votes. Boston guard Derrick White topped the second team, followed by eight-time All-Defensive selection Draymond Green of Golden State. Toronto's O.G. Anunoby, Dillon Brooks of Memphis and Bam Adebayo of Miami rounded out the team.

Paolo Banchero only unanimous 1st-team All-Rookie selection

NEW YORK (AP)—Rookie of the year Paolo Banchero of the Orlando Magic headlined the All-Rookie team, released by the NBA on Monday. Banchero was the only player to be selected as a first-teamer on all 100 ballots. He was joined on the first team by Walker Kessler of the Utah Jazz, Benedict Mathurin of the Indiana Pacers, Keegan Murray of the Sacramento Kings and Jalen Williams of the Oklahoma City Thunder. They were also the top five vote-getters in the rookie of the year balloting. Detroit teammates Jaden Ivey and Jalen Duren made the second team, as did Houston teammates Jabari Smith Jr. and Tari Eason, along with San Antonio's Jeremy Sochan. The NBA's All-Defensive team will be revealed Tuesday, and All-NBA will be announced Wednesday.

Astros' Valdez outpitches Ohtani, who takes 1st mound loss



**A N A -
HEIM, Calif.** (AP)—
F r a m b e r

Valdez says he probably threw too hard and made too many mistakes early in his career when he got into mound matchups against a pitcher of Shohei Ohtani's caliber.

These days, the Houston Astros' ace rises to such challenges with poise and precision.

Valdez racked up 12 strikeouts over eight innings of three-hit ball and sent Ohtani to his first mound loss of the season in the Astros' 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

Ohtani (4-1) passed Babe Ruth in career mound strikeouts while giving up six hits over seven innings, but the two-way superstar allowed five straight Astros to reach base in a three-run fifth, highlighted by Martín Maldonado's two-run homer.

Ohtani finished with seven strikeouts, but he has yielded at least three runs in three consecutive starts for the first time in his major league career.

"(Valdez) is a great pitcher," Ohtani said through his interpreter. "I knew it was going to be a low-scoring game, and I felt like I had some at-bats that could help us score some runs, but obviously I failed on that. But he's a good pitcher."

Yordan Alvarez had an RBI single for the defending World Series champion Astros, who snapped their three-game losing streak.

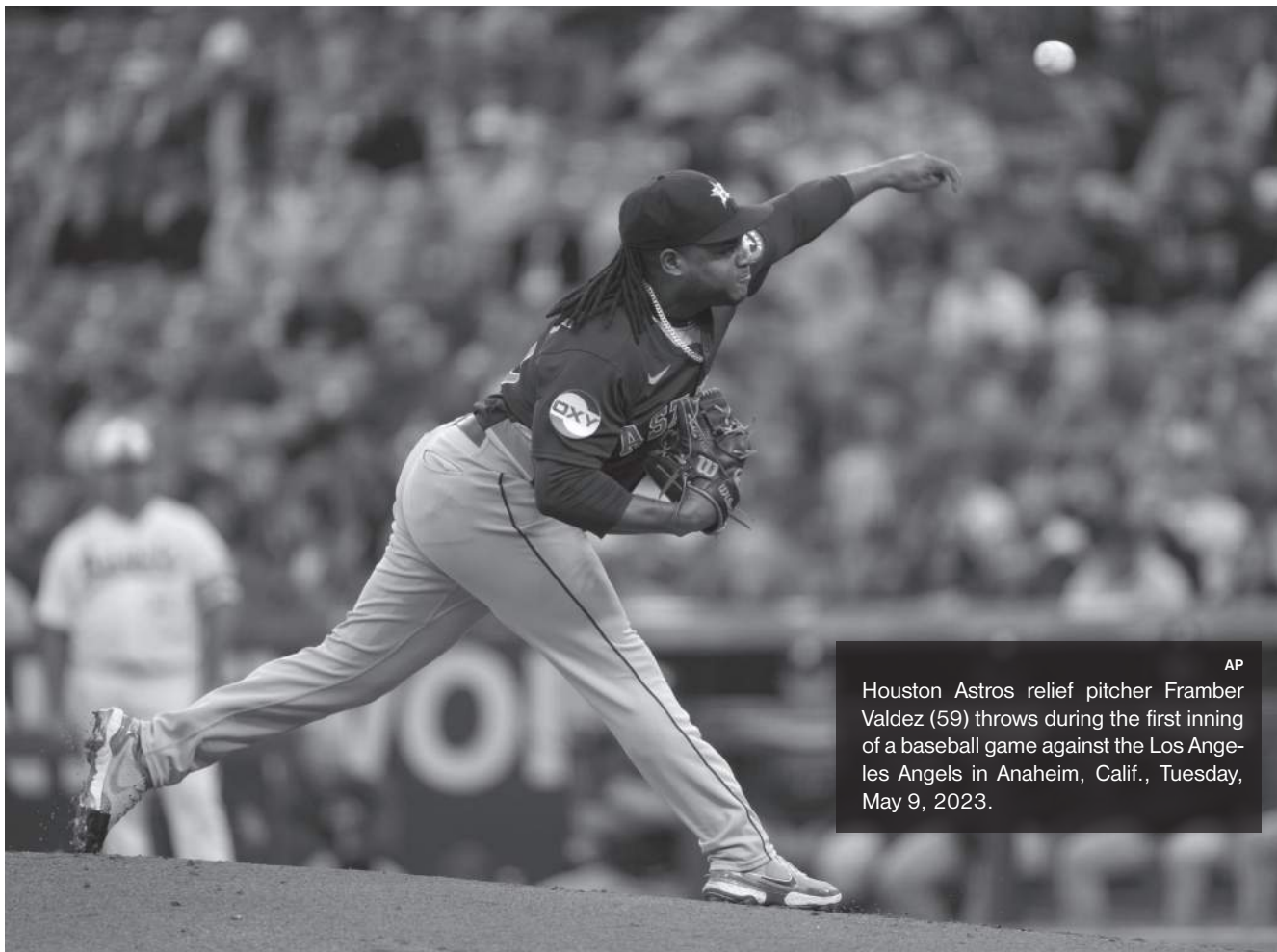
Valdez (3-4) was back in ace form after a few up-and-down starts. He held Ohtani hitless at the plate, limited Mike Trout to one single and didn't issue a walk while finishing one strikeout shy of his career high, also established against Los Angeles last July.

"It was the concentration, the focus on every batter, every pitch," Valdez said through his interpreter. "(In a tough pitching matchup), the adrenaline in the past would cause me to throw more pitches and give up more hits."

Rookie shortstop Zach Neto hit his first big league homer for the Angels, who have lost three of four.

Ohtani made history when he fanned Jeremy Peña in the second inning for his 502nd strikeout, passing Ruth's 501 K's, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Ohtani and Ruth are the only players in major league history to strike out more than 500 batters while also hitting more than 100 homers.

"He's just really good," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "But he's human, and I think he made one bad pitch to a guy that seems to do a lot of damage against us."



AP
Houston Astros relief pitcher Framber Valdez (59) throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Ohtani was sharp until five straight Astros reached base in the fifth inning, and Maldonado — a former Angels catcher — put Houston ahead with his second homer this season. Ohtani allowed a big fourth inning in each of his previous two starts.

ORIOLES 4, RAYS 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adley Rutschman homered, Grayson Rodriguez pitched into the sixth inning and Baltimore's bullpen was solid as it beat Tampa Bay to snap a three-game skid.

The Orioles pulled within 5 1/2 games of the major league-leading Rays. Tampa Bay won the opener Monday in a three-game series between the American League's top teams.

Rodriguez (2-0) allowed seven hits in a career-high 5 2/3 innings. Félix Bautista got the final four outs for his eighth save in 11 chances.

Wander Franco and Taylor Walls homered for the Rays. Zach Eflin (4-1) gave up four runs in six innings.

YANKEES 10, ATHLETICS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Gleyber Torres homered for the second consecutive game and drove in three runs as New York overcame three homers by Oakland rookie Jordan Diaz.

Diaz launched a solo shot in the fourth inning, a leadoff drive in the seventh and a two-run homer in the eighth. The 22-year-old second baseman from Colombia connected off three different pitchers, giving him four home runs in 30 major league games.

Aaron Judge had two RBIs

in his return from the injured list and Clarke Schmidt (1-3) pitched a career-high six innings for his first big league win as a starter. The right-hander allowed two runs and five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Drew Rucinski (0-3) gave up seven runs, five earned, in five innings for the major league-worst A's.

REDS 7, METS 6

CINCINNATI (AP)—Buck Showalter was ejected for the first time as New York's manager as the Mets lost for the 12th time in 15 games.

Jonathan India drove in three runs for Cincinnati.

The Mets scratched Max Scherzer because of neck spasms. David Peterson (1-5) was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse to make the start and allowed four runs, seven hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings.

Luke Weaver (1-2) gave up three runs and four hits in six-plus innings. The Mets hit a season-high four homers, two by Francisco Álvarez.

Showalter was tossed for arguing after Cincinnati's Wil Myers slid into second with his right arm extended and was hit by a batted ball, preventing New York shortstop Francisco Lindor from making a clean play.

DODGERS 6, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mookie Betts, Will Smith and Miguel Vargas homered as Los Angeles withstood Noah Syndergaard's early exit to beat Milwaukee.

Syndergaard lasted only one inning because of a cut on the index finger of the 30-year-old

right-hander's pitching hand.

Phil Bickford, Justin Bruihl (1-0), Yency Almonte and Victor González combined to allow one hit over five innings of shutout relief as the Dodgers built a 6-0 lead.

Rowdy Tellez and Victor Caratini homered off Shelby Miller in the seventh for Milwaukee. Evan Phillips got the last out with two runners on for his sixth save in as many chances.

Eric Lauer (3-4) allowed four runs — three earned — in 3 2/3 innings.

CARDINALS 6, CUBS 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Paul DeJong, Nolan Gorman and Lars Nootbaar homered, and St. Louis beat Chicago for its third straight win.

DeJong put St. Louis in front when he opened the ninth inning with a drive to left-center off Javier Assad (0-2), his third homer this season. Dylan Carlson then tripled and scored on Andrew Knizner's bloop double into shallow right field.

Chris Stratton (1-0) got four outs for the win, and Giovanny Gallegos worked the ninth for his second save.

Dansby Swanson and Christopher Morel homered for Chicago in its third consecutive loss.

BRAVES 9, RED SOX 3

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Olson crushed a two-run homer in a four-run first inning as Atlanta overwhelmed Boston.

Sean Murphy drove in four runs on three hits as the NL East-leading Braves handed the Red Sox their second straight loss following an

eight-game winning streak. Ronald Acuña Jr. added two hits and scored three runs.

Charlie Morton (4-3) allowed two runs on five hits in six innings. Nick Pivetta (2-3) allowed a season-high seven runs on eight hits and three walks in four innings.

ROCKIES 10, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jurickson Profar had his first multihomer game in four years, Connor Seabold got his first major league win and Colorado sent Pittsburgh to its eighth loss in nine games.

Pittsburgh's skid has followed a 20-8 start, the Pirates' best since 1992.

Profar hit a go-ahead solo homer off Luis Ortiz (0-1) in the second and followed Ryan McMahon's two-run triple with a two-run drive off Duane Underwood Jr. that capped a five-run seventh.

Seabold (1-0) allowed one run in five innings in his eighth big league start. He had been 0-4 in his career with Boston and Colorado.

GUARDIANS 2, TIGERS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber struck out a season-high nine over six innings, Amed Rosario had an RBI triple among his four hits, and Cleveland beat Detroit.

Bieber (3-1) scattered seven hits and walked one before relievers James Karinchak, Sam Hentges, Trevor Stephan and Emmanuel Clase completed Cleveland's third shutout of the season. Clase leads the majors with 13 saves in 16 chances.

Rosario singled in each of his three at-bats against De-

troit starter Michael Lorenzen (1-2), then tripled home Will Brennan in the eighth against José Cisnero. The Tigers were shut out for the first time since opening day.

MARINERS 5, RANGERS 0

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby struck out nine in seven sharp innings, Tom Murphy hit his first homer in more than a year and Seattle beat Texas.

Kirby (4-2) walked none and has only issued three free passes in his seven starts this season. He allowed only two Rangers batters to reach scoring position as his ERA dropped to 2.62.

Murphy's two-run homer in the seventh off Andrew Heaney (2-3) made it 4-0. Heaney gave up four runs, three earned, in 6 2/3 innings as the Rangers' three-game winning streak was snapped.

GIANTS 4, NATIONALS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Casey Schmitt homered in his major league debut and San Francisco beat Washington.

Schmitt was selected from Triple-A Sacramento earlier Tuesday and went 2 for 4.

Logan Webb (3-5) limited the Nationals to one run in seven innings, striking out seven and pitching out of several jams. Camilo Doval worked the ninth for his eighth save in nine chances.

Patrick Corbin (1-5) gave up three runs, two earned, in six innings.

MARLINS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Jorge Soler smashed two long homers and had five RBIs, Jesus Luzardo threw six effective innings and Miami beat Arizona.

Soler's first homer was a 468-foot shot in the second inning that landed on the concourse behind the left-center seats and gave the Marlins a 4-1 lead. His second homer, his ninth this season, was a two-run blast in the fifth that landed near the same area, just not quite as deep.

Both came off D-backs rookie Brandon Pfaadt (0-1), who gave up six runs in five innings.

Luzardo (3-2) gave up one run on seven hits.

PADRES 6, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—San Diego used savvy baserunning and three Minnesota errors to score twice in the seventh inning, giving Michael Wacha his first win in five starts.

Juan Soto had a season-high four hits with two doubles and a walk and Manny Machado hit a three-run homer in the ninth for the Padres.

Wacha (3-1) gave up just three hits and one run in six innings.

Kanoa teams to vie for youth soccer champs

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 17U, 14U, and 12U boys and girls of

the Kanoa Football Club have made their way to the finals of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after their semifinals last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The 17U boys tied it up with MP United, 2-2 but won, 5-4 via penalty kicks; the 17U girls silenced Shirley's 8-0; the 14U boys won a lopsided 8-1 game against MPU Pink; and the 12U boys blanked Matansa, 9-0.

The 17U boys had a draw in regulation, 2-2, after an intense and aggressive battle on the pitch for both teams. Tyler Omelau found the back of the net for Kanoa's early lead in the first minute, followed by



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Football Club's Iziah Tenorio, in orange, chases after the ball during their semifinal game against Matansa in the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

the second goal made by Paul Lizama in the 26th minute.

They could not make any shots after that as MPU's

Casey Chambers put one up on the scoreboard via a penalty kick for a 2-1 game.

Another penalty kick was

made by Miles Linden in the 80th minute.

The tension was palpable as the winner was to be decided

through a penalty shootout. Kanoa ended up with five penalty goals, while MPU had four, making for a final 5-4 game.

17U GIRLS 8X8 Kanoa 8, Shirley's 0

The 17U Kanoa girls dominated the pitch as they silenced Shirley's, 8-0.

Almost the whole roster contributed to their team's goals with two off the cleats of Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez.

The barrage of goals started off just one minute into the game by Beatrice Gross. Then Aubrey Castro made it a 2-0 game in the 10 minute.

Elikristiana Iglecias, Ye Lynn Ha, Audrey Castro, Aubrey White, and Gianna Lizama scored the other team's goals.

14U BOYS 8X8 Kanoa FC 1 8, MP U Pink 1

The 14U Kanoa FC 1 boys overpowered MPU Pink 1, 8-1.

Damien Concepcion led it off with a goal in the 10th minute. Five more goals were made by Maximus Taitano (2), Akoni Matsumoto, Rooney Gil, and Arstin Tagabuel be-

fore MPU made contact with the net in the 48th minute.

By this time, Kanoa was up 6-1 and counting as Taitano and Gil added one more goal each, followed by the last goal by Matsumoto.

12U BOYS 7X7 Kanoa 9, Matansa 0

The youngest Kanoa boys had a field day against Matansa to win, 9-0.

Iziah Tenorio and R.J. Manabat were the leading scorers as they scored a hat-trick each. Two goals were added by his teammates.

The 14U girls played last April 29 against Tan Holdings and won, 3-0, and was the first Kanoa team to advance to the finals of their respective divisions.

The finals for the 12U boys is set for Saturday, May 13, at 6pm between Kanoa and Shirley's FC; 14U girls finals between Kanoa and Southern United FC is scheduled for 2:25pm on the same day; 14U boys finals between Kanoa FC 1 and Matansa is at 2:35pm also on Saturday; 17U girls finals between SUFC is at 3:50pm; and the 17U boys finals between Kanoa and Tan Holdings is at 8pm.

Registration now open for HANMI Charity Golf



Registration is open at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort for the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on July 15, 2023, slated for the west course. Registration forms are available at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort and at www.saipanhotels.org.

"Finally! Registration is now open for our tournament, and we invite all interested players to ensure their slots are locked in," said tournament chair Juko Ishikawa. "Registration usually fills up by the early bird deadline, so we encourage players to sign up early."

The early bird tournament fee is \$150 and includes optional play this year, as well as green fees and an awards luncheon. The fee increases to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Registration is now open for the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, scheduled for July 15, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course. Registration forms are available at the course and at www.saipanhotels.org.

\$170 after the early bird deadline on Friday, July 2, at 5pm. Option play will include accurate drive (hole No. 9) and four chances for nearest to the pin (holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17). Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am.

Hole-in-one prizes include \$5,000 cash from Pacifica

Insurance, \$5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions, and vehicles from Atkins Kroll Saipan and Triple J Motors. Other early sponsors for the tournament include Flame-Tree TV/KSPN2, KCNM-KZMI, and *Marianas Variety*.

The tournament will be open to the first 144 paid

registrants. The tournament follows a blackjack double Peoria format. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Marianas Tourism Education Council and 500 Sails.

For more information, contact Tournament chair Juko Ishikawa at worldresort@pti-com.com. (PR)

CHANG

From Page 20

After a 26-18 lead in the first, New Chang Ming maintained that spread to 50-42 at intermission before extending it to 75-62 after three quarters of play.

Ol'Aces then totally collapsed in the fourth as they finally felt the absence of starters Douglas Schmidt, Kelvin Fitial, and Jack Lizama and lost by a whopping 29 points.

Jack Aranda and Shane Deleon Guerrero backstopped Castro with 16 and 13 points, respectively, for the now 6-2 New Chang Ming, while Riley Brungard served as Basa's lone sidekick with 11 points.

Earlier, Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant won its third game in five matches after beating Double A Corp., 94-72.

Sparked by three 3-pointers from James Villacrusis, Pepoy's took the reins early and led by double digits, 25-14, after the first quarter of play.

Pepoy's then out-quickened Double A in the second, as their athletic guards, led by Moreno Martin, either got the rebounds or intercepted the ball for quick fastbreak baskets. As a result, they juxtaposed Double A at halftime, 52-25.

Playing coach Ed "Pitbull" Guinto let the second-stringers play at the start of the third and that allowed Double A to catch up and at one point cut the lead to

12 points.

Starters were immediately inserted back to the fray and that allowed Pepoy's to steady the ship somewhat and entered the fourth and final quarter on top, 66-51.

Double A tried to rally in the last 10 minutes but despite the best efforts of Dexter Tenorio and Bryan Lontoc, Pepoy's still won the game with plenty to spare.

Villacrusis paced Pepoy's with a game-high 20 points, while Martin chipped in 17 points in support. Tenorio led Double A (1-6) with 14 points, while Oliver Rivera and Lontoc added 12 and 10 points, respectively.

First Game

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant 94 — Villacrusis

20, Martin 17, Natividad 11, Camacho 10, Galulu 8, Ebuon 7, Rabago 5, Mina 4, Guinto 4, Usi 4, Mamaril 4.

Double A Corp. 72 — Tenorio 14, Rivera 12, Lontoc 10, Jugos 7, Catalla 7, Palero 7, Pablo 5, Lumanlan 4, Surima 3, Sangoyo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-14, 52-25, 66-51, 94-72.

Second Game

New Chang Ming Market 101 — Castro 25, Aranda 16, Deleon Guerrero 13, Santos 10, Standish 7, Montes 7, Almario 6, Quan 5, Gontar 5.

Martech-Ol'Aces 72 — P. Basa 27, Brungard 11, Diaz 8, Pelisamen 7, Kabiriel 4, Barcinas 4, T. Basa 4, Atan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-18, 50-42, 75-62, 101-72.

LITTLE

From Page 20

said they are still trying to finalize the preparation of that field so they could host the tournament.

The renovation of the field is in partnership with the Department of Corrections, SBL, and the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

Greg N. Camacho, coach for the Braves Little League team, said that the cancellation of the season is "unfortunate."

"We have so many kids with talent and energy that need to be focused on something like

baseball. We all know baseball is the CNMI's pastime so we need to continue fostering this with our youth."

As for the U12 tourney instead of a full-blown season, Camacho said "It's the best alternative to a lack of a full season. The kids will still enjoy playing, learning the fundamentals and camaraderie that comes from friendly competition."

The Little League teams are Braves 1, Braves 2, Twins, Blue Jays, Cubs, and Comets.

SLLBI is under the U.S. Little League's Asia-Pacific Region for the past 20 or more years.

and his sparring partner and coach Peter Chang for helping him prepare for the competition. His mother thanked coach Eric Atalig and Jerry Diaz and his family.

For Banez, he said "Thank you very much for all the support for the CNMI Martial Arts Academy of Self Defense and Saipan Karate Team. Thanks to Marianas Security, Star Marianas air, M&C construction, MJD Corporation, Sodelour Construction, Ahbhu Auto Care, Philippine Eagle Guam Saipan District, and Racquel Huit Floyd."

Banez also gave special thanks to Eric Atalig, Peter Chang, and Shawn Montoya for being the sparring partners of Daniel and Dennis Guo.

DENNIS

From Page 20

in the competition."

His mother, Jin Hua Wu, who was in Guam to watch the competition, said that she was worried about her son's safety as they were not allowed to wear body padding and armor during the competition, but her worry went away when her son said that he can do it.

When he finished his competition, she said that she was so happy and relieved that he was unharmed and that he ended up winning first place.

She said that it didn't matter if he won or not—all that mattered was that he tried his best.

Dennis thanked his sensei



Embiid scores 33,
76ers beat Celtics
115-103 for 3-2
lead.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Kanoa teams to vie
for youth soccer
champs.

PAGE 19



20 THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Little League season canceled



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Heavy machinery is seen at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field behind the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Monday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Little League's 2023 season has been canceled, but a U12 baseball tournament is slated to take its place this June.

With supposedly six Little League teams waiting for a chance to play competitive baseball since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Saipan Baseball League president Jay Santos is helping the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. host a two- to three-week U12 baseball tournament instead due to the SLLBI's inability to organize a season this year.



Santos said he's helping "figure out a way how we can further develop youth baseball here in the CNMI. I haven't had an opportunity yet, but I'm hoping to reach out to the board members for Saipan Little League Baseball, and see how we can help them."

"The least we could do is host some local tournaments so we could at least keep baseball alive here in the NMI. My biggest concern is losing baseball here in the islands because of the lack of organized leagues. Naturally, if kids aren't involved in leagues or organized baseball, then they're obviously going to lose interest." But

he's hopeful that SBL and the SLLBI can collaborate.

He's looking at starting the tournament in the first week of June which will last about two to three weeks and have the teams play as many games as possible through a round-robin tournament and then a championship round.

Santos said he has reached out to Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul on renovating the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field behind the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

He thanked Yumul and DPW director Mike Borja for getting equipment out to the field so that they could get it prepared and graded. Santos

See LITTLE on Page 19

Chang Ming deals Ol'Aces 1st loss; Pepoy's beats Double A

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



New Chang Ming Market did what eight other teams weren't able to do before after beating Martech Ol'Aces, 101-72, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Coach Dennis Cortez found lightning in a bottle in the person of Jeffrey Castro as the national player more than held his own against former national player Preston Basa.

In a shootout from the land

of plenty, Castro matched the Marianas High School vice principal triple for triple and wound up with 25 points against Basa's 27 points. Both finished with five triples each.

At the end of the day though, Castro had more support from his teammates as they practically led the whole way save for the early goings of the marquee matchup.

See CHANG on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

New Chang Ming Market's Keith Santos drives past Martech-Ol'Aces' Preston Basa in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



Dennis Guo brings home karate gold

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Nine-year-old Saipan Community School student Dennis Guo brought home the gold in his division in the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai Full Contact Karate Championship 2023 at the Ilearn Academy Gymnasium in Guam last April 29.

In the 9-and-under boys division, blue belt Guo defeated orange belt Jaiden Perez of WKO Guam.

With multiple body attacks,

high kicks, and quick straight punches, Guo racked up the most points on his aggressive attacks and the flags were raised in his favor for the win.

Guo has been under the tutelage of black belt sensei Danny Banez of the Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo for about six months now and his 10-year-old brother, Daniel Guo, also competed in the tourney.

The fourth grader said that during the competition, he was scared, but he pushed through and came out on top. "I did not know if I would win or not, I just knew that I could do well

See DENNIS on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, sensei Danny Banez, first place Dennis Guo, and first place Jerry Diaz pose for a photo on their return from the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai Full Contact Karate Championship 2023 at the Ilearn Academy Gymnasium in Guam held last April 29.